

Mac

All your Apple needs

FORMAT



ALL NEW IPOD TOUCH & NANOS
Which one suits you best? See p84

ISSUE 201 November 2008

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

Improve your Mac skills today!

Do more with iPhoto



How to compare and select photos

Turn photos into artwork



How to make great watercolours!

New reviews this issue

- iPod touch 32GB • iPod nano 8GB • iDrive for Mac
- Gear4 BlackBox & more!



Essential Mac money-savers

We show you how to beat the credit crunch!

- The best free Mac software
- Get MobileMe for free!
- Bag freebies from Apple



INVESTIGATED



New Mac stores
Apple takes over the High St.

GROUP TEST



Browser battle
Safari alternatives reviewed

TUTORIALS



Control iTunes
Use your iPhone as a remote!

DISC INSIDE!

- Find files faster with HoudahSpot 2.0.9
 - Crossword Wizard 4SE
- FULL CONTENTS P128**



techradar.com

future
MEDIA WITH PASSION

NOVEMBER 2008 £5.99 £6 OUTSIDE UK & ROI

9 771353 851021

11>



FREECORDING IS *sharing your movies easily*

you can
Canon

HF10



DUAL
FLASH
MEMORY

The Dual Flash Memory of the new HF10 gives you both the convenience of 16GB internal memory and unlimited storage capacity with reusable SD cards. This doesn't just make your recording time much longer, it makes sharing movies easy and fun. Refresh your memory at www.canon.co.uk/freecording

Welcome



Apple's sales show no sign of slowing despite the general sense of economic gloom that pervades the world's markets. It's a real lesson to the industry about how having a quality product can protect you, to some extent, from the ups and downs of the economy. But as a Mac user, this is still a good time to look at how you can make savings on your expenditure. To that end I've

probably going to end up spending all that money you've saved on upgrades, but it'll be money well spent. It can't have escaped your attention that there are also more places than ever on the High Street to buy new Apple products – see our feature on page 20 for a rundown of all the new Apple outlets.

Before you jump into the issue, though, I just want to let you know that the *MacFormat* team has been hard at work this month producing a new iPhone guide called *MacFormat Presents The Essential iPhone Handbook*. It's on sale from 16 October, and contains everything an iPhone owner – or somebody interested in getting one – could ever need to know. So, look out for it in your local newsagent when you're next out and about. Back on the subject of Macs, I'll see you again on 12 November when we'll be taking a closer look at easy ways to clear the clutter from your Mac and give it a speed boost. See you then!

email: gbarlow@futurenet.co.uk

“As a Mac user, this is a good time to look at how you can make savings”

commissioned a special guide to beating the credit crunch by saving money on products for your Mac. For example, there's a vast array of very good and very free software out there, a lot of which you might never have registered on your radar before, that can end up saving you a fortune.

Of course, with the gorgeous new iPod touch and iPod nanos (our reviews start on page 82 this issue) that Apple has just released, you're



SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to *MacFormat* today: save 23% and get some free headphones!

Turn to p26 now!

All your Apple needs Contents

**NEVER
MISS AN
ISSUE!**

Subscribe today
see p26



70

The history of the iPod

Relive the last 7 years of iPod

In this issue...

Start up	6
Win: A new MacBook & Mr Site	12
Me and my Mac	14
Letters	16
I use my Mac for...	18
Apple on the high street	20
Subscribe to MacFormat	26, 66
Essential Mac money-savers	28
How to...	39
All you need...	68
History of the iPod	70
Q&A	74
Reviews	81
iPhone software	100
Shareware	102
Group Test: Browsers	104
Buyers' Guide	110
Games	124

Essential Mac money-savers

We show you how to
beat the credit crunch!

- The best free Mac software
- Get MobileMe for free!
- Bag freebies from Apple



28



104

Browsers on test

Is Apple's Safari really best for the web?



20

High Street Macs

Where to buy your next piece of Apple kit

On your DVD!
Three full apps, new trials, shareware, freeware and more!
See page 128



How to...

40 Create artwork

Turn your photos into artwork



Plus...

- Choose the best images 42
- Use still images in iMovie '08 44
- Build your own web server 46
- Make an iTunes remote 48
- Extend a wireless network 58
- Create keyboard shortcuts 60
- Enhance your Finder 62
- Stream iTunes to your iPhone 64



Luca DiCecco / Alamy

WIN!

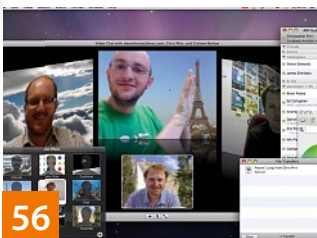
A MACBOOK & MR SITE SOFTWARE WORTH £720! SEE P12

39-65



51

Get more from iTunes today!



56

Master iChat's great features

Q&A

74-79

All your Mac-related queries answered by our experts

74 Mix WiFi networks

77 Solve random shut downs

And much more!



Reviews 81-109

The best independent reviews

82



Apple's new second-generation iPod touch is here!

88



Canon HV30 camcorder

87



Vita Audio R4

Reviewed this issue...

HARDWARE

Apple iPod touch	82
Apple iPod nano	84
Freecom Mobile Drive XXS 160GB	86
Shure SE110	86
Vita Audio R4	87
Canon HV30	88
Gear4 BlackBox 24/7	89
Buffalo MicroStation Hybrid	89
Portable Silicon Disk 32GB	89
Belkin Washable Mouse	90

SOFTWARE

Apple iTunes 8	85
Karelia Software Sandvox 1.5	92
iDrive for Mac	93
Sharpcast SugarSync	94
TurboCAD Designers 2D	95
Kashflow	95
Panic Coda 1.5	96
Bare Bones Software BBEdit 9	96

GROUP TEST

Web browsers	104
--------------	-----

Games 124

Check out the latest news on LEGO Indiana Jones & Batman, plus read our review of the new EA classic, Spore



MAC USER GROUPS
Turn to page 120 for our listing

Start up

MacFormat brings you all the best of this month's Apple chat



Turn to p82 for full reviews

The new iPod line-up features colourful new additions.

All new iPods!

Apple secures a healthy future for its music products at the latest 'Let's Rock' event

SNIPPETS

Apple gets greener

Greenpeace praised Apple's move to avoid the use of toxic chemicals in its new iPod range. "Apple's announcement is also a good sign that it is serious about meeting its commitment to phase out PVC and BFRs from its products by the end of 2008," Greenpeace said.

Apple introduced its Christmas 2008 line-up of iPods during its 9 September 'Let's Rock' event. Apple CEO Steve Jobs stuck to the script during the launch, but did reveal that *iTunes* now has over 65 million user accounts, making the company a powerhouse for music retail.

Plenty was talked about at Apple's music-focused event; here's a quick rundown of what was revealed:

- App Store downloads now exceed 100 million worldwide.
- *iTunes 8* released, now featuring Genius music recommendation engine.

– iPod nano – now in nine colours with Genius technology built-in.

– iPod touch – smaller, lighter, cheaper.

– iPod classic, now only available in 120GB.

– iPod shuffle, now available in new, brighter colours.

"Genius is a technology that figures out your musical tastes and is capable of building playlists you may like"

Genius is a technology that looks at the music you own to figure out your tastes, and is capable of automatically building playlists you may like once you've chosen a seed song or two. Genius can also recommend you music you don't even own yet. The big problem with the feature is that it can only comprehend music that's sold through *iTunes*, so if you pick a Beatles track, for example, the system is unable to make a recommendation.

There were price cuts across the range, but given Apple management's July warning that profits in the current quarter

MUSIC MARKETS | A step beyond iTunes



The iTunes Store UK is incredibly popular for music purchasing, but faces new competition. Amazon, MySpace, and 7digital have begun selling music online in MP3 format, free of restrictive digital rights management (DRM) with a catalogue including all four majors. With iTunes a top tier music retailer here, the major labels (bar EMI) have denied Apple similar rights to sell music

DRM-free through iTunes Plus. This is a deliberate strategy designed to undermine Apple's music retail dominance through offering support to competitors. Music moguls are terrified of Apple's dominance and want to regain control of music retail. However, with Apple selling songs on razor-thin margins, the only likely future outcome will be digital music price hikes.

would be squeezed by a "product transition", Morgan Keegan analyst Tavis McCourt said: "We wonder if a larger Mac price cut is forthcoming, since the iPod cuts alone would not appear to impact gross margin to nearly the degree management has guided for."

Worthwhile upgrades?

Most industry insiders think Apple's new music products are worthwhile upgrades to the iPod family, but seemed a little less excited than usual – company stock prices fell in the days following the launch, though dire warnings of general global economic gloom will have played their part.

American Technology Research analyst Shaw Wu called the news "somewhat underwhelming" – partially because Apple's plans leaked in the weeks before the event, with Digg founder Kevin Rose making a series of extremely accurate predictions. Despite reservations, Wu expects Apple to sell 35 million iPods in the latter half of this year, noting that despite the credit crunch, "high-end consumers are still buying technology."

Keith Bachman at BMO Capital agreed: "It wasn't Apple's most exciting product announcement, but we think it keeps the product family fresh for the run to year-end, to help offset consumer weakness."

Observing that "Apple's 'Let's Rock' event proved to be one of iPod evolution rather than iTunes revolution," Jupiter Research

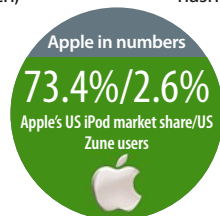
analyst Mark Mulligan also added that the new Genius feature "might actually have a big future ahead of it, being not only at the centre of some deeper offering, but also as many people may soon find themselves very attached to it."

Genius new feature

Mulligan speculates the recommendation engine may one day emerge as a fundamental basis to Apple's much speculated-upon music subscription service which, while expected at some future point, hasn't yet emerged.

Genius relies on users sharing information about their music taste with Apple, and while Steve Jobs promised this process to be "completely anonymous", analysts at UK music consultancy, Music Ally, observed, "Apple has offered iTunes recommendations before, but this is a real step forwards technically. It remains to be seen whether consumers will kick back over potential privacy issues."

"While the new products are an evolution in the range, the revolutionary zeal of the Apple market is clearly behind the iPhone, but this doesn't mean the iPod has had its day," remarked Needham & Co's Charles Wolf. "It's important to place the iPod in perspective. Through the iPod halo effect, it continues to convert Windows users to the Mac platform – but the product has reached the mature phase of its life," he said. ●



DIALOGUE BOX

What they're saying about Apple

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com



"I think people have finally looked at the Mac and said, 'this is a viable alternative to Windows.' It's a tipping point... The other interesting thing happening is that people used to buy a computer for home because they used it at work. But now, there's enough momentum in Mac in the home that they're starting to say, 'why can't I use this easy-to-use computer at work too?'"

Apple's coming home, says the company's CEO, Steve Jobs.

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com



"Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Apple boss stresses his health.

CHARLES WOLF www.needhamco.com



"By far the two most important aspects of Apple's 9 September 'Let's Rock' event in San Francisco were Steve Jobs' health and a software update for the iPhone."

Needham & Co. analyst cuts past the 'Let's Rock' hype.

DAVID MAHER ROBERTS www.thefilter.com



"We genuinely welcome what Apple are endeavouring to do with Genius – it brings into the mainstream what we've known for some time, namely that with too much choice, recommendation solutions are the future of search and discovery in the digital age."

CEO of The Filter music recommendation site speaks to Distorted-Loop.com.

PAUL CARTON www.changewave.com



"We also asked whether Apple's recent release of its 3G iPhone has made respondents more or less likely to buy an Apple Mac computer in the future. A total of 17% say they're now more likely to buy an Apple laptop or desktop in the future because of the 3G iPhone; only 1% said less likely. These highly positive findings point to the 3G iPhone having at least some 'halo' effect on Mac sales going forward."

Market analyst connects the dots outlining Apple's future

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to macformat@futurenet.com

Is the Expo reaching the end of its life?

The trade show's demise would be a blow to consumers, reckons Chris



CHRIS' COLUMN

Talk to anyone in the industry and you'll get the impression that the whole idea of the expo – those events in which exhibitors pack into a huge hall and throw open the doors to public and press – is dying. Apple didn't attend last year's MacLive Expo in London, it won't be there this year, and it wasn't at the

Paris show which even bears its name, Apple Expo.

And there's a terrible echo chamber effect in any ostensibly closed group such as the Mac industry. If a particular point of view starts to get expressed, it gathers momentum until it achieves the status of received wisdom. A combination of credulous newbies, all-talk-and-no-trousers stalwarts and a media hungry for soundbites means that an opinion expressed by just the right number of just the right people quickly becomes The Only Opinion To Hold.

This, frankly, is dangerous. I worry that, Apple's continued absence aside – and with its huge retail

"If a particular point of view begins to get expressed in the industry, it gathers momentum until it achieves the status of received wisdom"

presence in the UK, we can perhaps at least guess at the reason it doesn't think it's worth attending – this echo chamber will close down trade shows like Apple Expo and MacLive Expo, even though it's simply based on rumour rather than good business sense.

That would be not only exceptionally crass and stupid, but it would also be bad news for the industry, the press and, of course, the public. Retail space that lets you tinker with products is all very well, but it's no substitute for button-holing the manufacturer directly and asking questions, testing scenarios and, ultimately, trying to build a richer relationship than that of 'manufacturer' and 'purchaser'.

And for us at MacFormat, trade shows represent an unparalleled opportunity to meet with companies from all over the world and, again, build the relationships that help us bring new products to you, fast. If the expos do stop, it will be a disaster, and if it happens because everyone thinks the received wisdom is that it's inevitable, it would be a tragedy. ●

Christopher is MacFormat's Deputy Editor. He can usually be found at any Mac-related event propping up the bar, complaining about his hotel accommodation.



MOBILE UPDATES

iPhone gets even stronger

iPhone updated, future processor revealed, Genius goes mobile

Apple's iPhone Software Update 2.1 is an essential update, mending a series of bugs which had impacted many. Apple also updated its Remote iPhone app and quietly revealed that future iPhones will use a Cupertino-designed processor.

With the update, iPhone owners saw much more reliability when making and receiving calls, better 3G connectivity, and much less frequent application crashes. The iPhone now takes a few minutes to back up using iTunes, where some owners had seen such operations extend across hours.

The iPhone now offers on-board creation of Genius playlists – just select a song, click the button, and your iPhone will be your DJ. Genius matches the song you choose to others in your collection using

algorithms to ensure appropriate music is chosen. Apple also introduced an updated version of its Remote app, which enables you to control your Mac from your iPhone or iPod touch (see our tutorial on page 48).

Additional improvements in the device include faster installation of third-party apps, better text messaging performance, and a new option enabling users to set the iPhone to erase their data after ten failed passcode attempts.

Finally, an Apple employee who came to the company when it acquired PA Semi revealed some of the future plans for the iPhone.

Writing on his LinkedIn networking profile, Wei-han Lien, Senior Manager of Apple's chip team, revealed he was developing an ARM-based iPhone processor for a future model. Apple acquired PA Semi in June. ●



MICROSOFT WATCH

Redmond starts its fightback

Microsoft's \$300 million plan to combat Apple fails to impress



While Seinfeld and Gates choose shoes, is Windows Vista in trouble?

Microsoft has revealed its brand new plan to combat Apple's expanding chain of retail stores – partial imitation.

The giant company plans to field a string of 155 operatives at computer retailers Best Buy and Circuit City across the USA by the end of the year. Microsoft will call its group of Windows experts 'Gurus' – a brazen take on Apple's own in-store Mac Genius role. The big difference is Microsoft's Gurus won't be particularly useful – they'll only be allowed to answer general questions and offer product demos, not offer technical support.

Microsoft's scheme is part of its \$300 million marketing blitz to help the company cling onto market share. Another strand in the scheme is a series of ads, now running on US TV and easy to track down on YouTube.

The ads – ostensibly created to take on Apple's 'Get a Mac' message – feature Mac user Jerry Seinfeld and hugely wealthy Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, with the first to screen (showing both men choosing footwear in a shoe shop) being immediately derided by critics as lacking focus. Microsoft were forced to reassure staff with a statement describing the ad as a 'teaser'.

LEOPARD UPDATE

Mac OS X 10.5.5 released to users

Apple gives OS X 10.5 Leopard a graphics boost and bug fixes

Mac OS X 10.5.5 is now available for download, offering a slew of fixes that will benefit many users of the operating system. The update fixes problems with many of the applications within OS X. The update also bestows "extensive graphics enhancements", Apple explained, but then neglected to say what these actually were.

Given the dismay which surrounded launch of MobileMe, it's no surprise the upgrade includes patches for the service. These include patches to improve the reliability of sync and also to make Back To My Mac more reliable, Apple explained. Additional fixes include:

- MacBook Air's video playback, processor core idling and remote disc sharing should now be more stable.
- Mail's performance issues related to displaying IMAP messages are fixed, SMTP settings for some US email services have been patched, and a disappearing RSS feed problem in Mail has been resolved.
- iCal now more accurately deals with repeat events, and is better at

Apple's Mac OS X 10.5.5 release brings another slew of performance and reliability updates to Leopard.

managing meeting requests as well as other sync and collaborative features.

- Time Machine's Time Capsule reliability has been tweaked, as well as its related performance.
- iPhone users should see improved sync reliability with iCal and Address Book.
- Time Machine can now back up iPhone backups that are on your Mac.

Apple also introduced an OS X security update that repairs a problem with the way it handles Domain Name System (DNS) data, which could potentially let attackers trick victims into visiting malicious websites.



SNIPPETS

US Mac sales

More US consumers will buy a Mac this year than any other brand, claims a ChangeWave Research survey of over 4,000 Americans. 32% of US shoppers planning a computer purchase will go Mac. "Apple's reached a tipping point," researchers said. "Buying a Mac is as normal as buying a Dell or HP PC these days," and market the change "looks permanent," observed ChangeWave analysts.



UK iPhone sales

Apple's UK iPhone sales reached 27,000 per week in September, following peak levels of 50,000 per week in the UK on launch, Mobile Magazine claims. The device has grabbed 4-6% share of the UK handset market, as analysts anticipate the company will shift up to 8 million iPhone 3Gs in its current quarter.

Virtual Private Servers

Way more Powerful than shared, but a fraction of the cost of dedicated.

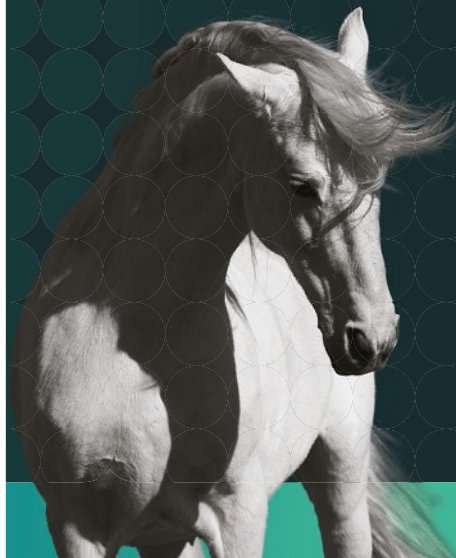
Easy managed
Choice of distro
Custom setup
Fraction the cost
Powered by Virtuozzo
Dell server

We could go on...

sales@blacknight.com
www.blacknight.com
0844 4849361



powered by
Parallels



Is Apple changing its rumours tune?

Brad Gibson wonders if Apple is tolerating more product leaks



ACROSS THE POND...

Earlier this year, Apple quietly settled its lawsuit with long-time Apple rumour site Think Secret. While the terms of the settlement were kept confidential, neither party admitted fault but Think Secret shuttered its doors for good.

That lawsuit was filed in January 2005, just one month after Apple filed suit against three reporters seeking sources for a story about a rumoured Apple audio device code-named "Asteroid" (never released). A California state appeals court ruled against Apple in that suit in May 2006, maintaining that online journalists have the same rights as their traditional counterparts in the US.

With those two losses behind it, has Apple turned the page on rumours and elected simply to live with what is surely inevitable for a company with 21,600 employees and millions glued to its announcements?

Recent events certainly suggest so. Weeks before the announcement, word emerged online of the

"Has Apple turned the page on rumours and elected simply to live with what is surely inevitable for a company with 21,600 employees?"

pending iPod nano revision, complete with a photo that correctly depicted the nano's new dimensions. Even the announcement's date was leaked ahead of Apple's official invitations and features of *iTunes 8* were also detailed before its release. Less than two days before the announcement, more leaks emerged: even photos of the new iPod nano in its retail packaging.

In the past, Apple lawyers would have pounced on these rumours, but not this time. Could it be because Apple deemed the announcement too small to pursue or was it because of the publications involved? (Kevin Rose, founder of the Digg social news aggregator, posted many of them, while AOL TimeWarner-owned Engadget supplied the iPod-in-packaging photos.) Or could it simply be that Apple has decided to throw in the towel, live with the leaks and leverage the hype?

As Apple grows, the company will inevitably lose control of rumours, but as long as they remain vague and emerge close to a real announcement, Apple should sit back and enjoy the extra buzz they create. ●

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via *iTunes* or from www.macformat.co.uk.

CREATIVE PRO

Adobe Creative Suite 4 unveiled

Adobe vaunts collaboration and integration in the all-new CS4

Adobe has introduced Adobe *Creative Suite 4*, the latest version of its suite of creative tools, developed with a particular focus on the evolution of all forms of collaborative publishing.

The company has developed its suite to enable sharing and collaboration of resources at all stages of the creative process. The company's move to exploit open and flexible file formats and to ensure accurate metadata capture is designed to assist this – and Adobe *Flash* becomes even more ubiquitous as a media delivery system across *CS4* – you can even export your *InDesign* documents in *Flash*. *Flash* itself has been beefed up with powerful new object-based animation modelling tools.

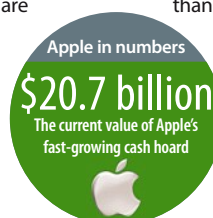
Creative Suite 4 includes *Soundbooth*, *Premiere Pro*, *Photoshop*, *InDesign*, *Illustrator*, *Flash*, *Fireworks*, *Dreamweaver* and *After Effects* as standalone apps. The *Master Collection* includes everything, while *Standard* and *Premium* versions of both design and web product groups are also available, along with a new *Production Premium* collection.

There's no end to the stand-out features within this release. *Photoshop Extended*, for example, now enables users to paint and composite 3D models; *Dreamweaver* users get to see accurate renderings of site designs, complete with the ability to test interactions; and it's now possible to create transparent gradients and draw more

naturally with the blob tool that you'll find inside *Illustrator*.

CS4 offers a host of new features – more than we can explore here – but also a new range of online services for creative professionals. These services should rapidly boost collaboration. For example, up to three people can share their screen to work on a document together using *Share My Screen/ConnectNow*. Adobe's *InContext* Editing service (beta)

promises direct web page editing. Adobe's online services also offer tutorials and advice for users. Shipping from October. ●



Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

The Dow: down 7.18% in a month, the NASDAQ: down 11.8%, Apple: down 26.7%.

In this current market tornado it's nigh on impossible for any stock to hold on, let alone prosper. Nowhere is this more evident than in

Apple's stock price, which has underperformed the market by a considerable margin.

The announcements made mainly consisted of upgrades, a few nice feature tweaks and some reduced pricing. However, at the moment good can be neutral, or even bad, for a share price, and dazzling would not necessarily make much of a positive impact. Even the announcement of a new sleek curvy iPod failed to wow. The shares promptly fell 4% on the day with the market obviously underwhelmed. However, this doesn't tell the whole story as the stock price had already been dropping ahead of the event; perhaps due to the fact that the rumours had also been far from stellar. Although none of this is very surprising in the current market maelstrom.

£1 Web Hosting

from UK's No1 Web Host*

£1

**LIMITED
PERIOD ONLY**
Shared Hosting
only £1 for
the first 6 months



Also available...

domain names

Register
yours or
transfer now!

from only
£2.79
per year

hosting

From the
UK's award-
winning
host
was ~~£3.99~~

now
£1
per month

InstantSite

Create a
professional
site instantly

from
£1.99
per month

eCommerce

Start your
online
business
today

from
£8.99
per month

Sign up now
www.123-reg.co.uk

Use this code for extra 5% off: **macformat**

*123-reg is the first host to register 1 million .uk domain names on one IPS tag

123-reg.co.uk



Win! A MacBook and Mr Site Takeaway Website Beginner

Everything you need to create and host your new website

PRIZES
WORTH
£720
IN TOTAL

This month *MacFormat* has teamed up with Mr Site to offer a brand new MacBook and a complete web-hosting package to one lucky reader.

Mr Site sells a range of web-hosting packages, all of which let you build your own site from scratch in a matter of minutes, and then host them for a year or more. The different packages – Takeaway Website Beginner, Standard and Pro – offer different amounts of storage, email accounts and tools. The Beginner's package (which we're offering here) is perfect for people wanting to make an impressive small website within a matter of minutes. With Takeaway Website Beginner you get five web pages, five email addresses, 75MB of web space and a generous 2GB of bandwidth.

Mr Site has already done the coding for you; you just select which elements you want

on your site, and let the program do the rest. Each Mr Site package includes its own web address (which includes a .com option), and if you want to migrate your site away from Mr Site at a later date you can do so easily.

To read more about Mr Site and its different versions just take a look at its website at www.mrsite.com where you'll find all the information you need.

THE QUESTION

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, simply answer the following question correctly using one of the methods outlined in the box on the right.

What does HTML stand for?

- A) Hyper Typing Matrix Lock
- B) High Tube Management Link
- C) Hyper Text Markup Language

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, you can either text MRSITE followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at www.macformat.co.uk and click on the Competition link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
- If you do not want to receive information relating to future offers and promotions, please include the word STOP at the end of your text message.
- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 11 November 2008.

The wonderful world of widgets

We've played with the latest widgets, and put the top four on your disc



Time Map

<http://tinyurl.com/6mbawd>

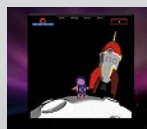
Time Map overlays city locations on a world map in order to show the current time, while offering a visual sense of whether it's day or night anywhere across the world.



BBC iPlayer widget

<http://tinyurl.com/46omnq>

This helps you stay abreast of the latest iPlayer shows as they are made available and offering single click access to new shows you want to see as they appear.



SpacePig

www.bakno.com

This animated game features a pig character who has landed on the moon. Your job is to guide the lovable little porcine sprite around the scarred landscape to gather items while avoiding danger.



BBC ListenAgain

www.keilly.com

A second BBC widget, this time offering you single-click access to the entire archive of shows from Radio 1, 1xtra, Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 4, 5 live, 5 extra, 6 Music and more. Never miss a show again!

BROWSER WARS

Google unleashes Chrome browser

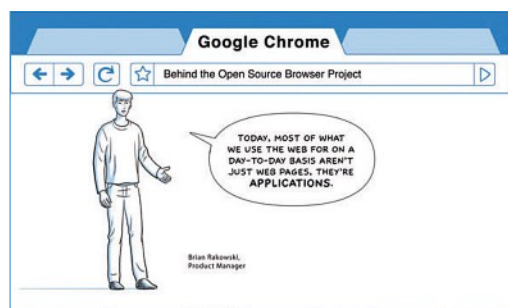
Google's Chrome builds strong support for web apps

Google has re-ignited the browser wars, introducing its very own browser, dubbed *Chrome*, in a move that saw the company grab an impressive 1% of the global browser market inside one day.

Just like *Safari*, *Chrome* is based on the open source web browser engine, *WebKit*. The difference is that it's not a browser in the traditional sense; instead Google is developing the software as the ideal system with which users can access future web applications. Its release should be seen as an adjunct to Google's other moves in the browser market, such as Google Apps.

Chrome offers tabbed browsing and an extremely fast JavaScript engine called V8. Browser tabs are separate processes, so if one crashes the rest of the browser doesn't fail. Google has also included native support for Google Gears, meaning the software has the muscle required to run Gears apps offline, as well as online.

Chrome's only available for Windows XP and Vista currently, a situation Google co-founder Sergey Brin called "embarrassing". A Mac version is in the works. ●



EVENTS DIARY

HANDHELD LEARNING 2008

13-15 October

International event where Apple will explain how the iPhone SDK can be used to make mobile learning apps.

www.handheldlearning2008.com

MACLIVE EXPO

23-25 October

This leading UK Mac event has something for every Mac or iPod user. Drop by at our stand! www.madiveexpo.co.uk

VISION

7 November

The British Journal of Photography presents its annual event for all photographers at Islington's Business Design Centre.

www.bjp-online.com/vision

"ONE OF THE
ABSOLUTE BEST GAMES
TO GRACE ANY
PLATFORM TO DATE."

— GAME INFORMER®

"ONE OF THE
DEEPEST ONLINE
SHOOTERS OF ALL TIME."

— IGN.COM



CALL OF DUTY 4 MODERN WARFARE

AVAILABLE NOW

www.aspyr.com

www.CallOfDuty.com

Distributed in the UK by Softline UK Ltd. 01293 872900 www.softlineuk.com

★ ASPYR



ACTIVISION



INTEL BASED
MACS ONLY

© 2008 Activision Publishing, Inc. Activision and Call of Duty are registered trademarks and Modern Warfare is a trademark of Activision Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. This product contains software technology licensed from Id Software ("Id Technology"). Id Technology © 1999-2008 Id Software, Inc. Uses Bink Video. © 1997-2008 by RAD Game Tools, Inc. Aspyr and the Aspyr "star" logo are federally registered trademarks of Aspyr Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Mac and the Mac logo are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. All other trademarks and trade names are the properties of their respective owners.

Me & My Mac

Simon's suite of Mac kit is ideal for work – and play



- 1 Apple Mac Pro 8-core 3GHz**
HD video is a resource-hungry format to edit; a meaty Mac with plenty of RAM – 5GB here – is essential.
- 2 Sony XDCAM HD Deck**
With more flashing lights than a 747's cockpit, this deck can record full 1080 video at very high bitrates.
- 3 Apple iPhone 3G 8GB**
The support for the Microsoft Exchange server makes this an indispensable business tool for Simon.
- 4 Apple Cinema Display 20-in**
Both these displays are connected to Simon's Mac, so he has a huge canvas to work on; vital for video editing.
- 5 Toshiba 42-in 1080HD**
This full-HD TV means Simon can check what the finished videos look like, or check progress as he works.
- 6 JBL Control 1 Pro monitors**
JBL may be best-known for its line of consumer hardware, but it does also make pro speakers.
- 7 Apple iMac 20-in 2.16GHz**
It may not have the grunt of Simon's work Mac Pro, but this is still a powerful computer in its own right.
- 8 Apple MacBook 2GHz**
We're big fans of Apple's 'baby' laptop; it's actually plenty capable, and it's compact to boot.

Every so often at Me And My Mac we're reminded that, traditionally, the core of Apple's business was creative professionals using its kit to produce everything from printed materials to show-stopping films.

ST16 is a video production company that creates cinema commercials, viral advertising stings and much more. Its creative director, Simon Crofts, is a big Mac fan. "When I first started editing in 1998 PCs weren't an option," he says.

"Macs were years ahead both in terms of hardware and software. PCs are great for MS Office and that's about it. I run XP on my MacBook for that alone."

And, as you can see, Simon has a fair bit of Mac kit at his disposal, both at



Name:
Simon Crofts
Occupation:
Creative director
Been using a Mac for:
11 years
Favourite hardware:
iPhone 3G
Favourite software:
Final Cut Studio 2

work and at home. "My iPhone is totally synced with work through an Exchange server," he says. "So I have my email, calendar and contacts with me wherever I go. Couldn't live without it! My iMac is used to put together rough edits before going into the edit suite at work, and the Mac Pro is used to finish full online HD edits, ready for cinema or pretty much any other media."

It's not hard to understand why Simon prefers the Mac.

He says it best himself: "They act like they aren't there. With a PC you know it's there because it constantly demands your attention or it won't work. All my Apple kit knows its place; it's a tool to get the job done. You

"All my Apple kit knows its place – it's a tool to get the job done. You switch it on and start work"

switch it on and start work; it's all about the film you're creating, not the kit you're using to create it.

"My MacBook means I can start putting together edits anywhere in the world. We've worked everywhere from LA to Shanghai. Shooting in XDCAM HD means all the footage is already file-based and can be transferred over FireWire to the MacBook (in a proxy format), and an offline edit put together while you're on the plane. Then the edit is re-conformed back at HQ for finishing. Final Cut Studio 2 is a

cheap and hugely powerful tool. We're producing cinema commercials in 2K and even 4K formats with it – it really boxes above its weight."

Even though Simon commands a superb suite of Apple kit, like any of us, he's always looking to the next upgrade. "We recently invested in *After Effects* after trying to get along with *Motion* for a while without success," he says. "And we're looking into some kind of RAID storage device rather than dozens of FireWire drives."

It sounds to us like Simon knows exactly what he's doing, and it fair gladdens the heart to see that the creative professionals are still as smitten by Apple's magic as its new home customers. ●

Want to share your Mac setup with us?
Email christopher.phin@futurenet.co.uk

100%

Control & Flexibility

Ultra-fast dedicated servers with Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processors

DEDICATED SERVERS

FROM £49pm

	DS 250	DS 450	DS 650	DS 850
Processor speed	2 x 1.8 GHz	2 x 2.13 GHz	2 x 2.4 GHz	2 x 2.66 GHz
RAM	512 MB	1 GB	2 GB	3 GB
Hard drives	80 GB	250 GB	2 x 250 GB	2 x 500 GB
IP addresses	2	2	2	2
Bandwidth	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Linux	£49 pm	£69 pm	£99 pm	£189 pm
Windows	£59 pm	£79 pm	£109 pm	£199 pm

- Independent remote management with keyboard, video & mouse control
- Root access – total administrator control
- Choice of Windows & Linux OS
- MySQL and MS SQL databases
- Unlimited bandwidth
- Your server up and running in minutes
- FREE SETUP when you pay annually
- UK based data centres



**24/7
UK SUPPORT**
INCLUDED WITH
ALL DEDICATED SERVERS

192.168.121.121
SYSTEM STATUS OK



Intel® Core™ 2 Duo Processor

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

**ONE
MONTH
FREE**
ON ALL NEW
**WINDOWS
DEDICATED
SERVERS**

Unlimited
bandwidth
with all
servers

Get up and running in minutes
fasthosts.co.uk/dedicated
0870 888 3392

Prices exclude VAT

fasthosts

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER
**ONE
MONTH
FREE**
ON ALL NEW
**WINDOWS
DEDICATED
SERVERS**

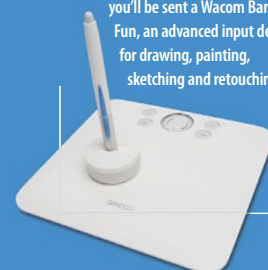
Letters

Write in and let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat magazine and everything Apple

WRITE AND WIN!

MacFormat Star Letter prize

Email all your letters to us at macformat@futurenet.co.uk – if yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a Wacom Bamboo Fun, an advanced input device for drawing, painting, sketching and retouching!



CLIPBOARD

"Thanks for a great magazine, it's made a novice's life a lot easier."

James Richards

"Many thanks for a great magazine without which I would be lost."

Simon Pierce

"Many thanks – and keep up the excellent work with the magazine and podcasts."

David Wenlock

"MacFormat is becoming the magazine of choice for MUG members who want to learn how to get the most from their Macs!"

Michael Grogan,
Mac Users UK

"Keep up the good work. Here's to another 100 issues!"

Christian

iWEB TUTORIALS?

I've been subscribing to *MacFormat* for a year now and always look forward to the special issues. It seems that they are mostly on productivity tips for OS X and *iLife*. I like them! However, it seems that you've yet to cover *iWeb* in your tutorials.

Could you please include a thorough *iWeb* tutorial (with extra features and handy solutions) in a coming issue?

Jiri Palacky, Czech Republic

MacFormat replies: Certainly – we'll put something into next issue on *iWeb* for you. Look out for it on Wednesday 12 November. Also look out for our special issue on the iPhone, which is on sale on Thursday 16 October.

UK SPELLING ISSUES WITH iWORK

In *MacFormat* issue 198 on p47, you suggest under "Getting the spelling right" how to switch the dictionary to British English. This seems to have done the trick except in the *iWork* '08 packages – *Numbers* and *Keynote* are okay with English spelling, but *Pages* still seems to refuse to understand British spelling!

Dennis Tuckerman

MacFormat replies: It's possible to get *Pages* to use the English dictionary, if you know where to look in the options.

If you're *absolutely* sure that you have the British English dictionary set as the default in *System Preferences*, try changing the default language in *Pages*' template. Open a new document, click Text Inspector > More and set the language to **British**. Then choose File > Save as Template, call it **Blank.template** and put it somewhere obvious. Now move it to Applications > *iWork* '08 > Pages.app > Contents > Resources > Templates > Blank so that

you overwrite the original **Blank.template**. You could even do this for individual styles so that they are spell-checked in different languages. I don't imagine that there are many people that want to be able to do this, but you never know.

ITUNES' NOT-SO-GENIUS AND CLASSICAL MUSIC

A match made in heaven? Hardly. About the most pointless exercise known to man, more like. The reason is that the data on which Genius relies is unstructured as far as classical music goes. The whole categorisation of data in *iTunes*, iPods and the CDDB online database are pop oriented. The limited display options on an iPod screen forces you to adopt a non-intuitive naming convention because the iPod display focuses on **Album** and **Artist**. You don't have the option to display the data field **Composer**. One way around this is to use the **Artist** field for **Composer** and **Album** field for the title of the work. Voila! Now you can see the composer and the work on the playlist display on your nano.

It's possible to get *Pages* to use the English dictionary, if you know where to look in the options.



★STAR LETTER | KODAK CONSPIRACY?

Why is it that, when discussing the relative merits of various digital cameras, *MacFormat* (and most other computer magazines) studiously ignores Kodak products? The current issue of *MacFormat* is a case in point. A whole article devoted to sub-£150 digital cameras and not a single mention of Kodak.

I am now on my third Kodak camera, a C613, since converting to Mac in 2000 and I can see no reason to change my preferred maker. For me, Kodak cameras are exceedingly good value for money, there's a huge and

varied product range to suit all needs, they are of good quality, the printer docks are excellent and they are seamlessly compatible with Macs.

Julian Brown

MacFormat replies: We certainly don't have anything against Kodak. We only have a limited number of spots in our Group Tests, so some manufacturers won't be represented. We may change the roster of manufacturers next time we do a camera round-up, but at least part of the reason we selected the six we did was that these are the most

visible brands that consumers will be guided towards through retail and advertising, and we wanted to ensure we let our readers know if they failed to make the grade. The model from Canon was a good example of this, surprising us, as it did, with poor images for a camera from this usually-excellent manufacturer.



The Kodak Easyshare M1033 Zoom Digital Camera takes up to 10-megapixel photos.



Genius creates great playlists for you, but only if you've entered your tracks' ID3 tag information correctly.

Then along comes Genius and picks up your artist data and starts offering you alternatives. Mmm... let me see now. Richard Wagner – well known German composer. Genius recommends Benjamin Wagner. I don't think so. Try Vaughan Williams. Genius has never heard of him so it gives me Metallica. Nice one, Genius. Sir Charles Stanford? Some guy called Stanford Olsen. Now where's that 'off' button?

Roger Sinden

MacFormat replies: *iTunes* is definitely geared in favour of 'modern' music, Roger, although you can also purchase classical music on the *iTunes* Store. If you want Genius to work for you then you're going to have to use the ID3 tags as they were designed to be used, with the artist in the **Artist** field and so on. If you find that's not suitable you can find the 'off' button right on the bottom of the *iTunes* window.

SPORE ON A MAC MINI?

What amazes me about this game is that it's available at the same time as the PC

version, and I think even before the consoles. Both the Mac and PC versions come on the same DVD, which I hope becomes the norm for future game releases. There cannot be that amount of difference between the two given the shared Intel chip, can there? Also, will it work on a Mac mini?

Anonymous

MacFormat replies: *Spore* makes use of Wine – a clever compatibility layer for running Windows programs in OS X, meaning that Windows and OS X versions of the game can be released simultaneously. Annoyingly (and confusingly unclear in its system requirements) it's not compatible with the Intel 950 integrated graphics chipset on a Mac, but it is on Windows, which means it won't work on any Mac mini at all, and older MacBooks will also be incompatible. By 'older' we mean pre-late 2007. You'll also need OS X 10.5 Leopard to run it.

The best thing to do is try out the *Spore* trial edition from www.spore.com/trial to see if it works on your Mac. ●

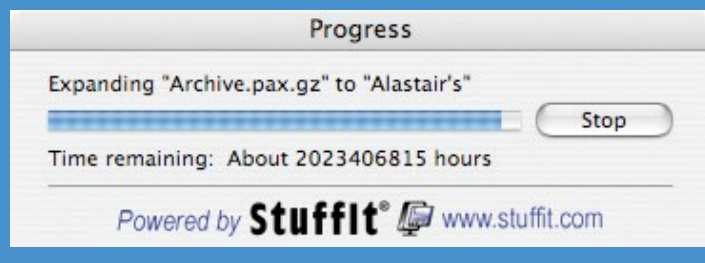
FUNNY MAC MESSAGES

I got this when unzipping a file. I'm just wondering if my Mac will be the last one still running at the world's end!

Alastair Turnbull

MacFormat replies: Interesting to note that the progress bar is near the end,

Alastair. Did you really wait almost 2,023,406,815 hours before taking that screenshot? We'd never accuse a reader of 'Photoshopping' an image, so either your Mac's been running for 230 millennia or *Stuffit's* estimation has gone a bit wonky on this occasion!



Mac FORMAT

Future Publishing Ltd,
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath BA1 2BW

Tel 01225 442 244

Fax 01225 732 295

macformat@futurenet.co.uk
www.macformat.co.uk

EDITORIAL

EDITOR **Graham Barlow**

gbarlow@futurenet.com

DEPUTY EDITOR **Christopher Phin**

cphin@futurenet.com

OPERATIONS EDITOR **Michelle Camaibatiki**

mcamaibatiki@futurenet.com

REVIEWS EDITOR **James Ellerbeck**

jellerbeck@futurenet.com

ART EDITOR **Alex Thomas**

athomas@futurenet.com

NEW MEDIA EDITOR **Simon Holland**

sholland@futurenet.com

MARKETING

BRAND MANAGER

Jennifer Wagner jwagner@futurenet.com

CIRCULATION

TRADE MARKETING MANAGER

Stuart Brown sbrown@futurenet.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER

Joanne Bray jbray@futurenet.com

HEAD OF ACQUISITIONS

Helen Ward hward@futurenet.com

PRINT & PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR

Charlene Vaughan cvaughan@futurenet.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rose Griffiths rgriffiths@futurenet.com

HEAD OF PRODUCTION

Richard Mason rmason@futurenet.com

LICENSING

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL LICENSING

Tim Hudson thudson@futurenet.com

Tel: + 44 (0)1225 442244

Fax: + 44 (0)1225 732275

ART CONTRIBUTORS

Alamy, Apple, Mike Brennan, Nick Diggory,
Future Photo Studio (Gavin Roberts, Joby
Sessions), MagiC Torch

MANAGEMENT

GROUP SENIOR EDITOR **Nick Merritt**

CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Robin Abbott**

DESIGN DIRECTOR **Matthew Williams**

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR **Jim Douglas**

ADVERTISING

AGENCY ACCOUNT MANAGER

Paula Stevenson pstevenson@futurenet.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Andrew Tilbury atilbury@futurenet.com

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR

Clare Williamson cwilliamson@futurenet.com

SENIOR SALES MANAGER

Matthew Bailey mabiley@futurenet.com

DIGITAL ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Alison Watson awatson@futurenet.com

{ Want to work for Future?
Visit www.futurenet.com/jobs }



ABC 27,216
Jan-June 2008
A member of the Audited
Bureau of Circulations



Future produces carefully targeted special-interest magazines, websites and events for people who share a passion. We publish more than 170 magazines and websites and 100 international editions of our titles are published across the world.

Future plc is a public company
quoted on the London Stock
Exchange (symbol: FUTR).

www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive: Stevie Spring
Non-executive Chairman: Roger Parry
Group Finance Director: John Bowman

Tel +44 (0)20 7042 4000 (London)

Tel +44 (0)1225 442244 (Bath)

© Future Publishing Limited 2008. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used or reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England and Wales. The registered office of Future Publishing Limited is at Beauford Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW. All information contained in this magazine is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. Readers are advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this magazine. If you submit unsolicited material to us, you automatically grant Future a licence to publish your submission in whole or in part in all editions of the magazine, including licensed editions worldwide and in any physical or digital format throughout the world. Any material you submit is sent at your risk and, although every care is taken, neither Future nor its employees, agents or subcontractors shall be liable for loss or damage.



The text paper in this magazine is
totally chlorine free. The paper
manufacturer and Future Publishing
have been independently certified in
accordance with the rules of the Forest
Stewardship Council.



When you have finished with
this magazine please recycle it.

Abigail photo credit: Steven Davis

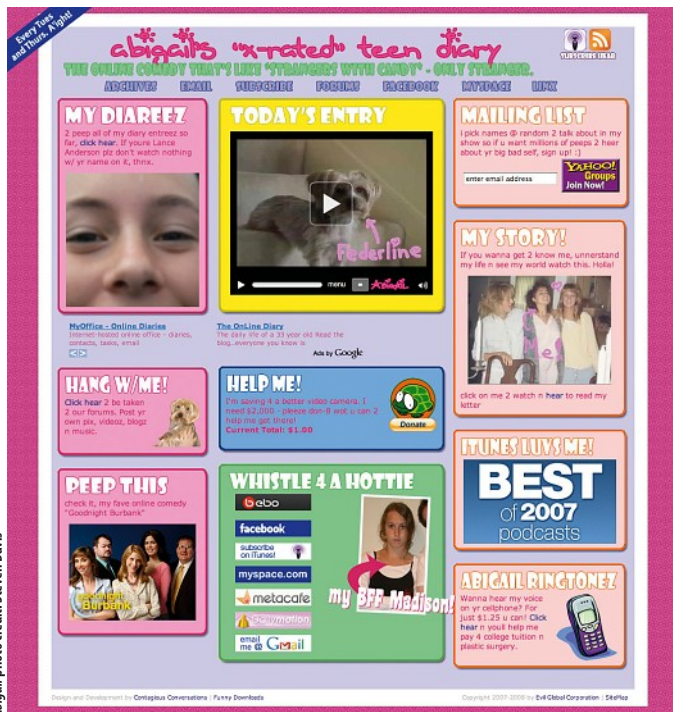


photo credit: By Thomas Sanders

LEFT: *Abigail's Teen Diary* follows the life of a teenage girl with 'Bloombergs Syndrome', a genetic disorder that makes her look suspiciously like a 34-year-old Hayden Black.

ABOVE: *Goodnight Burbank* provides a glimpse of life behind the scenes of a fictitious Californian newscast, though the news featured is 100% real.

I use my Mac for... producing comedies

Words Craig Grannell

We talk to Hayden Black, web comedy superstar



Photo credit: Ashley West Leonard

PROFILE

Name: Hayden Black
Location: Los Angeles, USA
Occupation: Writer/actor/comedian
System(s): iMac, PowerBook G4, iMac G4
URL: www.goodnightburbank.com,
www.abisteendiary.com

MacFormat: Why do you use Macs?

Hayden Black: If you want to be a filmmaker, you've no excuse not to use one, but I've always preferred a Mac for all the obvious reasons – intuitive, good-looking, bedroom eyes. They allow me to write, but seeing as how online distribution has opened up, they now provide the ability to do everything. From composing music to creating graphics, and from editing my online comedy shows to following through with online marketing, it's all done from my Mac. Well, my three Macs.

MF: What software do you use?

HB: *Final Draft*, *GarageBand*, *Final Cut*, *Creative Suite*, *iChat* and *Vuze* [formerly *Azureus*], which, being a Brit, I use to download *Doctor Who* and *Al Murray*. These apps are simple and intuitive – although I'm still in hunt-and-peck mode in *Final Cut*.

MF: What are your comedies about, and what inspired them?

HB: *Goodnight Burbank* is about the people who bring us the news – while they're bringing it. Imagine what news presenters say when they think their microphones are off and you're halfway there. *Abigail's Teen Diary* is about a girl with a fictional genetic condition that makes her look like a 34-year-old bloke.

The ideas came from my Yorkshire Terrier, Salford, who whispers to me at night just as I fall asleep. He also gives me rubbish ideas, too, so don't think he's a total genius. He's under contract to my production company, Evil Global Corporation.

MF: What are the benefits of internet broadcasting?

HB: People want immediacy, portability and the ability to interact with their favourite shows and like-

minded fans. You can't do that anywhere other than online. The sooner studios realise that and start creating truly interactive content, the better for everyone. In the meantime, I'm having a go. Wheee!

MF: What are you working on now?

HB: Currently, there are two new episodes of *Abigail's Teen Diary* every week, and coming soon are two new comedy creations. *The Cabonauts* is a sci-fi musical comedy about two guys who drive a spacecab. And *All About i* is about a mad old English music-video director and his long-suffering crew who are looking back at his life's work. *All About i*, which is a little closer to being born, utilises Macs for recording audio and creating graphics, and *Final Cut* will be used to edit everything together to create comedic fool's gold. Wait. Not that. The other kind. ●

Available from :



www.amazon.co.uk



www.apple.com/ukstore



www.atcomputers.co.uk



www.play.com



www.ghc.co.uk

Solutions Inc - Bournemouth
78 Old Christchurch Rd
0870 3898610

Solutions Inc - Brighton
12-13 Brighton Pl
0870 3898610

Western Computer - Bristol
Temple Gate
01179 225 661

Western Computer - Cheltenham
Beechwood Shopping Ctr
01242 234700

Scotsys - Glasgow
164 Great Western Rd
0845 606 2641

Albion Computers - London
112 The Strand
0207 212 9090

Apple Store - Birmingham
West Bullring Shopping Ctr
0121 260 1900

Apple Store - London
235 Regent St
020 7153 9000

Apple Store - Manchester
Arndale Ctr
0161 216 4570

Cancom - Brighton
110 Queens Rd
01273 748 083

Solutions Inc - Brighton & Hove
255 Old Shoreham Rd
0870 3898610

Cancom - Cambridge
5 Clifton Ct
01223 247111

Scotsys - Edinburgh
95-97 Nicolson St
0845 606 2641

Square Group Ltd - London
78 New Oxford St
020 7692 9990

GBM - Manchester
One Piccadilly Gardens
0161 605 3838

Apple Store - Kent
Bluewater Shopping Ctr
01322 640100

Apple Store - London
Brent Cross Shopping Ctr
0208 359 1050

Apple Store - Manchester
Trafford Ctr
0161 240 1000

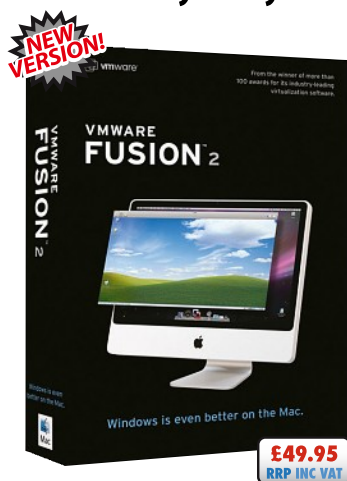
Apple Store - Sheffield
Meadowhall Shopping Ctr
0114 212 1000

VMWARE FUSION™ 2

*Windows is even
better on the Mac!*



**Get the best of both Mac and PC worlds with VMware Fusion.
Seamlessly run your favorite Windows applications and devices, on the Mac.**



Switching to the Mac is easy and painless
with VMware Fusion 2.



With Exposé you can easily switch between
Mac and Windows apps



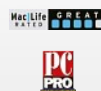
VMware Fusion 2 raises the bar for
3D acceleration yet again

Built from the ground up for the Mac, VMware Fusion is the easiest way to switch to Mac—letting you bring all your Windows applications with you, making the most of your Windows software investment, and providing the perfect safety blanket for the switch. The winner of more than a dozen industry awards, VMware Fusion gives you the power of more than a decade of technology excellence, with the intuitive, user-friendly experience you expect from the Mac. With VMware Fusion, Windows is even better on the Mac.

Features/Benefits List:

- Seamlessly integrate Windows applications with the Mac
- Launch Windows applications from any Mac file, the Dock, and more
- Run Windows side-by-side with Mac OS X without rebooting
- Minimize Windows applications to the Dock
- Use Exposé to switch between Windows and Mac applications
- Import an existing PC with VMware Converter
- Install new Windows OS with Windows Easy Install
- Run Windows applications across multiple screens
- Use Windows-only USB devices on your Mac, including GPS receivers, cell phones, PDAs, and iSight® cameras
- Run 3D games, design software and other graphics-intensive apps with support for DirectX 9.0 Shader Model 2 3D graphics
- Includes a free 12-month subscription to McAfee VirusScan Plus

**FUSION is the winner of more than a dozen industry awards,
including...**



MacFormat investigates Apple on the high street

Macs are now available from more retail outlets on the high street than ever, but is this to the benefit or detriment of the industry and consumers?

Getting a Mac on the UK high street used to be tricky. A handful of Mac resellers lurked in forgotten corners of cities, and only a scant few, such as Square's New Oxford Street store, were located sensibly and stood out. The problem was also that Mac resellers were rarely geared towards newcomers to the Mac platform. You had to know where to go and who to speak to. A trenchcoat and a funny handshake were useful tools.

Recently, though, things have changed. November 2004 saw Apple's flagship Regent Street store open to wide acclaim, beginning Apple's measured rollout of its own stores throughout the UK. Keeping pace, APRs (Apple Premium Resellers – Mac-dedicated retail outlets meeting Apple's exacting standards) started plugging location holes, opening stores on high streets and in shopping centres lacking Apple itself. Joining well-known Apple high-street reseller John Lewis, Marks & Spencer recently started selling Macs via its online store and within its larger branches. More surprisingly, Argos dedicates an entire page of its latest catalogue to Apple kit (beyond iPods). This means that there's now an Apple reseller in almost every reasonably-sized British town.

"Marks & Spencer recently started selling Macs. This means there's now an Apple reseller in most reasonably-sized British towns"

The halo effect

We quizzed several APRs and long-time Apple reseller John Lewis about what's driving this change, and all cited the iPod's meteoric rise, along with the relative successes of the iMac and iPhone. "However, 'resurgence' is not the word I'd use, as this implies the change just started, when it's been increasing over the past three years," argues Darren King, MD of Square Group. King suggests Apple's strong

performance in education, sending the right message to students, teachers and parents alike, has altered the perception of Apple as a brand, moving it beyond something purely for the print, creative and video markets.

Historically, Mark Hotter of MacWarehouse

says Mac customers knew what they wanted, had done the research, and were willing to pay for quality. "But while that customer still exists, we're increasingly seeing newcomers to the Mac," Mike Khalfey, Buyer: Information Technology at John Lewis concurs. His organisation recognised Apple's strengths 15 years ago and has stocked Macs ever since, but recent years have seen marked changes, most notably a major shift towards laptops, with MacBooks proving particularly successful. ►



Apple's flagship store on London's Regent Street kick-started interest in British high-street presence for the American giant.



ABOVE RIGHT: The iStore at Basingstoke's Festival Place shows how Apple Premium Resellers can offer a similar shopping experience to Apple in locations where Apple itself is absent.

With Apple resellers no longer solely preaching to the converted, and renewed consumer interest in the platform, these companies suddenly find themselves trying to grab market share whilst also being mindful of expansionist competition. Hotter notes how PC World – often scorned by Mac users for its seeming neglect of Mac kit – now offers dedicated Apple ‘shop in shops’, manned by Apple staff, and backed by an online arm of MacWarehouse (www.maclife.co.uk). Hotter considers Apple’s current market share tiny, and reckons “you can never have too much of a good thing”. But will the likes of Argos and an aggressive Apple impact negatively on existing resellers, rather than newcomers exploring all options equally?

Most resellers consider Argos re-entering the Mac market a good thing. Hotter notes: "As Macs appear in more generic retailers, the Mac is brought to a wider audience, embedding it in the consciousness of the shopper as a commodity product rather than a niche one." Also, the service Argos offers is fiercely basic. "Assistants sell Macs one minute and washing machines the next," says Howard Cole, MD of Albion. "Because of this, APRs dedicated to Apple with extensively trained staff will always offer a better proposition." Even John Lewis recognises the shortcomings of a box-

For APRs, it's Apple, rather than Argos that, causes most concern with its rumbling expansionist store policy and multichannel

strategy that ultimately puts Apple in competition with its own partners. "Apple's also cloak and dagger about where it plans to open stores," says King, although he admits there's some openness when APRs enquire about locations they themselves are considering. "However, Apple goes where it likes, irrespective of whether there's an APR there or not"

Square Group was the first APR to directly compete with an Apple Retail Store, with its New Oxford Street premises suddenly being overshadowed by Apple's

Strange, perhaps, to think Apple could be the biggest threat to Apple high-street presence. But despite Apple's stores clearly enhancing the brand, its tendency to aggressively discount makes it hard for APRs to compete, and King notes that, "Apple always gets stock before everyone else," although he concedes that APRs do come a close second.

Clearly, existing APRs intent on survival can't just wait for Apple to steamroll their operations, and those we spoke to are making moves to compensate for a potential loss of retail sales. King notes that Square's B2B business has grown phenomenally, and Apple's nearby store made Square raise its game, specialise and offer products and services unavailable from Apple itself. He concedes that end users may find things confusing, not fully understanding the difference between an APR and Apple's own stores, or considering an APR's offering somehow inferior to the 'real thing'. But by APRs ensuring their services are of a high quality, such problems should disappear over time.

Marks & Spencer recently began stocking Apple equipment (including the high-end MacBook Air) on its website and in some of its larger stores.

"Competition is always healthy and we'll have to ensure we're offering our customers a high level of service to retain them. That said, I'm sure we'll see a drop in retail sales when Apple's store opens."

To counter this new Apple Store, Western aims to offer an experience beyond Apple's. Ford talks about providing a range of accessories above that available from Apple, investment in customer services (especially relating to faults, with customers able to bring products in for repair without making appointments), and enhancing in-store experiences. "Our new APR-style stores offer an environment that's more welcoming and less business-focused," explains Ford. "This has been well received and resulted in consistent retail growth. And with people able to walk in at any time to book a repair and get advice, three-week delays are a thing of the past for Western Computer Systems are now checked within

Some APRs aren't competing with Apple – instead, they're exploiting gaps, opening branches in locations devoid of Apple's own stores or retail-oriented APR equivalents. Albion recently opened iStore in Basingstoke's 165-store Festival Place. At a glance, iStore resembles a miniature Apple Retail Store, showcasing a range of Apple products, along with offering the services advocated by Western and Square.

"When choosing a location for a new outlet, we wanted a strong retail environment with good footfall to create awareness of our location," explains Albion MD Howard Cole. "Festival Place is vast, attracting nearly 18 million visitors a year from a large catchment area, and locals seem genuinely pleased that they now have a centre of excellence for Apple products that doesn't mean driving to Southampton or London."

Where to Buy Apple Products and Services

Buy a Mac or an iPod, find a professional solution or get the best support for your Mac products.

1 ALIBON
 120A FESTIVAL PLACE
 CB • BADDENSTONKE RG21 7HF
 TEL: 07712 43555

2 DODDING TALK FREE
 FESTIVAL • FREE EVENT OPPORTUNITY LOUNGE
 WILKINSON ROAD, HATFIELD PARK
 HATFIELD AL9 7DA

3 SOUTHERN GROUP LTD
 31 HEARLAND STREET
 CB • HIGH WYCOMBE MK11 2BY

4 SOUTHERN GROUP PLC
 10 WATERPOURTY BUSINESS PARK
 100 RIVER CROSS STY
 TEL: 07535 00550

Apple shop


Authorized Service Provider


Solution Expert Print and Publishing


Solution Expert Photography




© Michelin 2003

Although Macs are widely available via mail order, nothing beats seeing potential purchases up close. However, unless you live down the road from a well-known Apple reseller, it's not always obvious where to go; and with the number of Apple Retail Stores and Apple Premium Resellers increasing all the time, there's a chance a store exists near you without you even realising.

see the **Where can I buy Apple Products?** page. Under the **Shop Retail** picture is a drop-down menu, listing each of Apple's 19 (at the time of writing) UK Apple Stores.

Alternatively, enter your postcode or city into the field under **Find a Reseller**. An interactive map will display all the resellers in your area. By using the menus under the map, you can refine this search, restricting it to locations that offer Macs, Apple services and related specialist needs.

Whether such rises rub off on the high street and retail sales remains to be seen (not least in a distinctly rocky British economy), but there's no doubt British Apple consumers – both existing and future – have never had it so good. Apple now has a real chance to make major in-roads into the UK 'home PC' market.

In many places, the excuse of not buying any Apple kit because you can't touch and experience its products first-hand no longer exists. Consumers at every level – seasoned users who know exactly what they want; newcomers looking for advice; and anyone requiring extended services – are now fully catered for by the mix of Apple resellers now available. “The APR channel clearly addresses the retail, business and academic sectors, and Apple Retail Stores currently focus on the consumer market, but don't offer any system integration and installation services,” says Ford. “There's enough business with the growth of Apple's market share for all parties to coexist and offer their own solutions.” ●

Mac presents
FORMAT

The Essential iPhone HANDBOOK

FOR
MAC
& PC

Use, improve and troubleshoot your iPhone
with 100 pages of independent, expert advice



**On Sale
16th October**

from WHSmith,
Tesco, Easons
& Borders

Choose Your Own Features!

AWARD WINNING DESIGNER HOSTING PACKAGES

Manage **Multiple** Domains, Sites and Packages

Choice of **Windows** or **Linux** Hosting

Scripting, Databases and Web Tools **Included**

For a full features list visit

<http://www.names.co.uk/designer>

Reasons to Choose Namesco

- Award Winning Hosting
- Fast UK Based Support
- FREE Domain Included



"Namesco has proven itself many times to be a fast, reliable and professional way of registering domains / hosting. The customer service is fantastic."

James Druce, Crasherkids.



www.names.co.uk

0845 363 8888



• Domain Management

• Broadband & SDSL

• Email Services

• Business Hosting

• Servers & VPS

Namesco Limited, Acton House, Perdisswell Park, Worcester, WR3 7GD. Cheques, Direct Debit and credit/debit cards accepted. Calls to 0845 numbers are charged at BT 0845 rates, 5p connection fee, maximum 4p per minute within the UK from a BT landline, other network call rates may vary. Some "Unlimited" features may be subject to quota restrictions. "Best Shared Hosting Award Winner 2008" is a trade mark of the Internet Service Provider Association, used under licence.

Subscribe

and receive this Sennheiser Headset

Subscribe to MacFormat today and receive this Sennheiser Headset as your welcome gift*

Subscribe today for just £14.98 every three months by Direct Debit, and you'll save 23% off the cover price and receive a Sennheiser Headset worth £34.99!

HOW TO QUALIFY...

To qualify for this offer and to enable us to send you your unique serial number for a Sennheiser Headset, you must provide your email address when subscribing.

How to subscribe...

1) To subscribe to *MacFormat*, save 23% off the cover price, and receive a Sennheiser Headset as your welcome gift, call 0844 848 2852 quoting reference P067, or subscribe online at

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/mfc/p067

2) To subscribe to *MacFormat*, save 36% off the cover price (you will not receive a Sennheiser Headset) call 0844 848 2852 quoting reference P068, or subscribe online at

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/mfc/p068

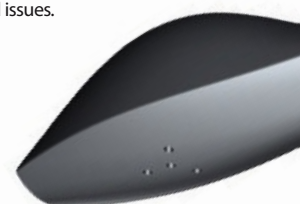
Lines open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 9:30pm, Saturdays 8:30am to 4:00pm

FANTASTIC MACFORMAT SUBSCRIPTION OFFER:

- Subscribe from as little as £14.98 every three months with our convenient Direct Debit offer
- Get you favourite magazine delivered direct to your door
- Each issue comes with a DVD packed full of Mac Programs

*Terms & conditions

This offer is available to new UK subscribers paying by Direct Debit only. Minimum subscription term is 12 months. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. You will receive 13 issues per year. Details of the Direct Debit Guarantee are available on request. If at any time during the first 60 days you are dissatisfied in any way, please notify us in writing and we will refund you for all unmailed issues. Offer ends 15 November 2008.



to Mac FORMAT

**SAVE
UP TO 36%
OFF THE
COVER
PRICE**

SENNHEISER

Sennheiser Headsets RRP £34.99

**HURRY
STOCK LIMITED!**
Available to
the first 150
subscribers
only!

PRODUCT FEATURES...

The Sennheiser PC 141 gives you the individual look you want and is ideal for music, internet telephony and above all computer gaming. Whether you're using it at home for intense gaming or on the road with a CD, DVD, or MP3 player, the PC 141 headset provides you with powerful, beautiful sound.

- Adjustable, bendable and pivotable microphone makes the voice more clear and increases comfort and flexibility
- The noise-cancelling microphone provides high speech clarity and voice recognition by filtering out the noise around you
- With the in-line volume control and the microphone mute switch, you can keep sound at the right level or have a side conversation in privacy

Words Hollin Jones Illustrations Magictorch

Essential Mac money-savers

Never mind the credit crunch, you can load your Mac up with great applications at no cost with our guide to getting it all for free



Find related software on this issue's disc.

Let's face it, buying computers can be an expensive business. And once you've bought one, you have to get software to run on it. In the current climate of belt tightening, shelling out cash for software or services like online storage may well be luxuries you can't afford. Or, you may prefer using free software from small or independent developers regardless of your finances. The great news is that for every big, commercial application there is almost always a free alternative, which can do some or all of the same things the expensive software can. As recently as 15 years ago, free software was pretty basic and generally given away on

"The great news is that for every big, commercial application there is almost always a free alternative, which can do some or all of the same things"

CDs or floppy disks with magazines. Now, thanks to huge strides in technology like OS X and Apple's Developer Tools and iPhone SDK, far more people are able to develop amazingly sophisticated programs and distribute them over the internet. Many of

them are good enough to do this in return for nothing other than the satisfaction of creating something, or a request for donations. The internet has also given rise to the open source

community, another great developer of free alternatives to commercial programs. All in all there's never been a better time to kit out your Mac for free, as we reveal with our exclusive guide...





Free stuff from Apple!

Apple is more enlightened than some when it comes to giving away free stuff

QUICK TIP



Check for updates

Use *Software Update* to check for and download free updates to OS X and its components as well as any Apple-branded programs such as those from *iLife*, *Logic*, *Aperture* or *Final Cut*.

MAIN IMAGE: iTunes U gives you free access to many hours of educational video and audio content from around the world.

Big, successful companies aren't generally known for what they give you for free. And whilst it's true that Apple is hugely profitable, it also has a more human touch than most large commercial organisations. In fact, you can get a number of things for free from Apple, and, crucially, they're worth having. We're not just talking about software, either. For example, in Apple Stores you can go to any Mac on display and go online for free, check your emails and even log in to *iChat* or *MSN* and have a conversation. It's a remarkably good idea on Apple's part and a far cry from the looks of disapproval that can result when you try the same in other technology retailers. Many even lock equipment behind screens, but in Apple

"In Apple Stores you can go to any Mac on display and go online for free, check your email or log in to iChat"

Stores you'll often have to wait for a Mac to become free. Quite apart from being a nice gesture, it also lets people experience the joys of OS X first hand and undoubtedly ends up converting many to Macs. The same goes for using other Apple stuff, and you can generally pick up an iPod or iPhone and try before you buy. In the bigger Apple Stores there are even seating areas where you can take your laptop, plug it in and use its WiFi.

Free music

iTunes, of course, has always been free on both Mac and PC, and easily the equal of paid-for music players. Many people even find it the best one around. The iTunes Store has been phenomenally successful as a way to buy music and movies, and quite often you can get free content through it as well. Podcasts are always free, but sometimes bands will make a track or a music video available as a free download as a way of promoting other material. Generally they're only free for a limited time and there can be geographical restrictions. There are also weekly promotions, such as free music Tuesdays, where between one and three songs can be freely downloaded by logged-in users. More recently with the



With the introduction of the App Store for iPhone and iPod touch, you can now get hundreds of great free applications through iTunes.

launch of the App Store in iTunes, you can also download a host of free games and applications for your iPhone or iPod touch. These are helpfully gathered together in a section you can access by clicking the **All Free Applications** link in the App Store. Some developers of more advanced App Store applications also tend to make their products free for a limited time to boost popularity, then revert to charging a nominal fee after a set period of time. There's also a link to iTunes U, which lets you download thousands of pieces of educational content such as lectures and videos on a wide range of subjects from universities and thinkers across the world.

Free applications

iLife has come free with all new Macs for a good few years, and it's a fantastic suite of programs. When Apple released iLife '08, the company found that some people weren't as keen on the new version of iMovie as the older iMovie 6 HD, as it has a very different way of working. So Apple made iMovie 6 HD available as a free download for those who have a copy of iMovie '08. It can be downloaded from www.apple.com/support/downloads/imovieHD6.html and has much lower system requirements.

Apple also makes thousands of free widgets available for you to run in Dashboard and enhance your system. They can be found at www.apple.com/downloads/dashboard sorted by category with a typically slick Apple interface and a **Top Widgets** list to help you see the most popular. On the Apple Downloads site you'll also find categories of applications, many of which are free, and also freeware plug-ins for apps like Aperture, Final Cut and music software as well as demo versions of some programs like Aperture. If you're buying from Apple,

you may well find that in its online store there are usually special offers on where, for example, you might get heavy discounts on a printer when bought with a Mac. Students or those working in education often do even better as there are frequently special offers, like a free iPod when you buy a laptop.

MobileMe and movie trailers

Apple has recently revamped its Mac service into MobileMe, and as before you can get a trial membership to test out what it has to offer before committing yourself. You get a restricted amount of storage rather than the full 20GB that

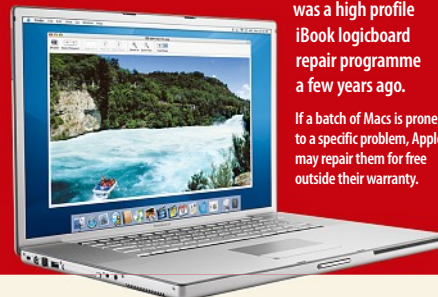
"There are special offers for students or those working in education, like a free iPod when you buy a laptop"

comes with a full membership, but all the syncing features should work, and you're not obliged to buy a full membership once the trial is over. You are also able to use iCal's **Publish to web server** feature to share your calendars for free on www.icalx.com and there's the option to password protect them as well. Apple also offers free tutorials on its website for various products and services, including iLife, MobileMe and iWork. As you'd expect from Apple these tend to be slick, easy to follow and conducted in relaxed Californian voices. Apple has for years been offering free movie trailers online. There's nothing too revolutionary about that, but thanks to its server capacity it can offer HD versions of trailers, and provided you have a fast broadband connection you'll be able to watch them at very high quality. Front Row and Apple

FREE HARDWARE REPAIRS!

If your Mac is out of warranty and develops a fault you may still be able to get it repaired at no cost. This can happen if the fault in question is a known issue with Apple. Any technologically advanced product can develop a fault, but sometimes, due to a flaw in a component or a manufacturing process, a particular generation or batch of products will exhibit a disproportionate occurrence of the same problem. They are usually identified in batches and by serial numbers. If you have an Apple product that's out of warranty but

exhibiting a flaw, scour the net for similar problems. What usually happens is that if enough people kick up a fuss, Apple will eventually acknowledge the problem and set up a free repairs program. You may have to be persistent. There have been a few instances of this – a batch of aluminium PowerBooks a few years ago suffered from defective screens and there was a high profile iBook logicboard repair programme a few years ago. If a batch of Macs is prone to a specific problem, Apple may repair them for free outside their warranty.



QUICK TIP

Hotspots and The Cloud

In the UK, all iPhone contract service plans include unlimited free data transfer subject to a fair use policy as well as unlimited WiFi access at any of 9,500 hotspots run by The Cloud or BT Openzone.

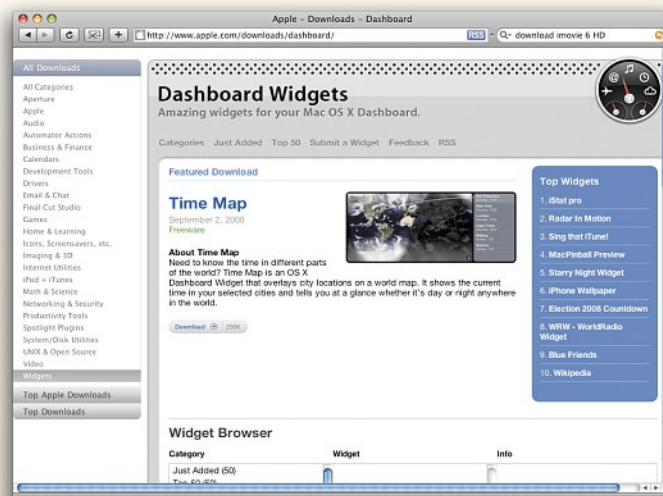


TV are also able to hook directly into the trailer streams so you don't have to watch them through a browser.

Trust your customers

Let's not forget the obvious stuff that comes free from Apple. Safari comes as part of OS X but is also available as a free download both for Mac and PC. The same is true of the QuickTime Player. Mac OS X itself isn't technically free, but comes pre-installed on any new Mac, so its cost is absorbed into the price of the Mac. Since Apple makes both the hardware and the operating system, you can't buy a new Mac without OS X installed. Unlike Windows Vista there's only one consumer version of OS X and it does everything – there's no option to pay extra for a version with more features because it already has them all. Although it's governed by a EULA, OS X does not have a serial number system, which implies a rather more trusting attitude towards its users than Microsoft.

There are hundreds of great Dashboard widgets available for free on Apple's website – just head to www.apple.com/downloads for the Top Widgets.



Free open source apps

There are free alternatives to well-known commercial apps. We show you the best

QUICK TIP



Open Source Mac

The web is a big place and it can be hard to track down exactly what you need in terms of open source stuff for the Mac. A good resource is Open Source Mac (www.opensourcemac.org) which provides a list sorted by category and links directly to downloads.

There was a time when "open source" meant software that was fairly basic and rudimentary. People with the ability to code are not always necessarily as concerned with design as the technical details. It's still true that many open source applications lack the finesse and polish of the commercial counterparts, but it's also true that they are completely free, and the result of many thousands of hours of work. Crucially, the stability and feature-sets of many open source programs are now far better, to the point where they can more or less do the job of a commercial rival priced at hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They also tend to have committed bases of users who are willing to help out with any problems you may have and who create add-ons, plug-ins and tutorials for free. Since OS X is easier to code for than OS 9,

there has been a gradual spread of open source software from its traditional home of Linux and Windows into the Mac world.

Office suite

Office software is something that most people use frequently, whether it's letter writing, making presentations or creating spreadsheets. The most widely used in this arena are Microsoft *Office* and Apple *iWork*, but these both cost. *OpenOffice.org* is a fully-featured suite of office programs replicating the extensive functionality of

"Open source programs can more or less do the job of a commercial rival that may cost hundreds of pounds"

its commercial rivals and able to save and load documents in a variety of formats. It features applications called *Writer*, *Calc*, *Impress*, *Draw* and *Base* to cover all the tasks you may need to perform. There's also a good selection of add-ons and extensions to enhance its functionality. Its system requirements are amazingly low and it will run on a G4 400MHz with 256MB of RAM, which is far lower than most comparable suites. The only problem with *OpenOffice.org* is that since it wasn't originally written for the Mac, you need the *X11* windowing system installed, which it can do for you. Another issue is its appearance; it's Windows-like and lacks the finesse of Mac programs. The solution to this is to try *NeoOffice*, a port of *OpenOffice.org* that integrates much better into OS X and has a slicker, more Mac-like look and feel. It even adds

TOP FEATURES | A quick look at GIMP

X11 system needed

You will need to first install the *X11* system from your OS X install DVD to run some of these open source programs.

Tool palette

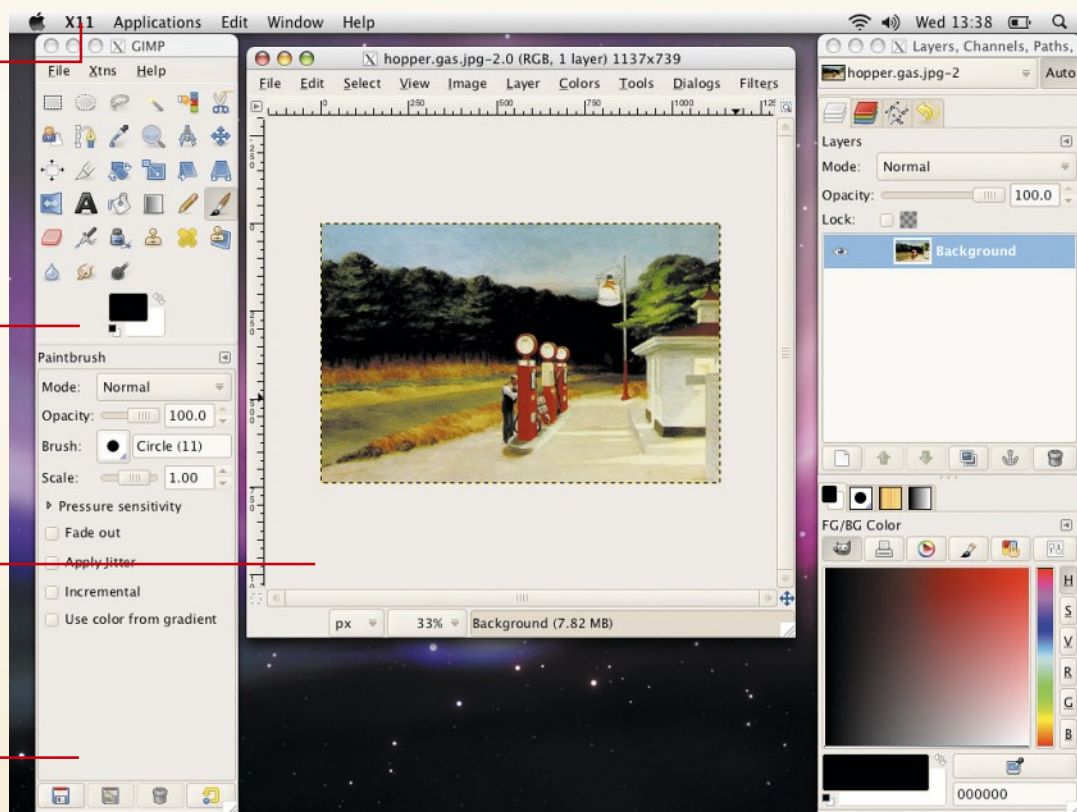
The Tool palette to the left of the screen, contains everything you need to modify and retouch images and paint using brushes.

The Canvas

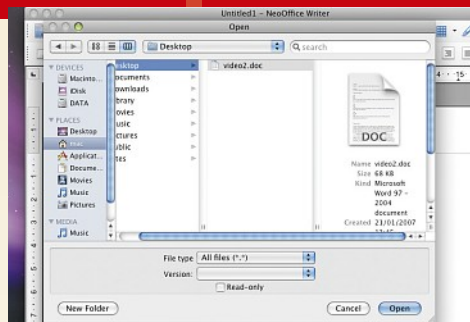
The Canvas, which is the main working area, is also where you view the results of your edits and artistic decisions.

Layers, channels, paths

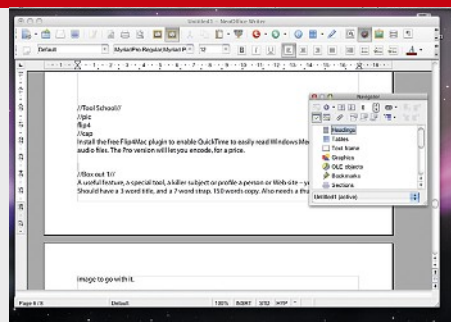
GIMP's Layers, Channels and Paths palette is where you manage the colour and composition of the images you are working on.



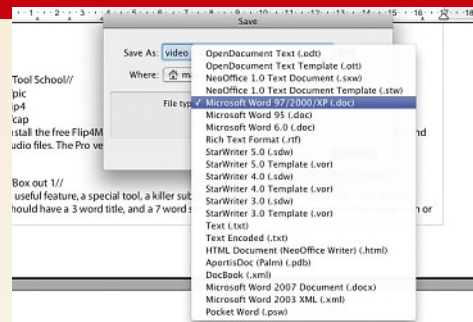
STEP BY STEP How to work with Word documents in NeoOffice



01 Download and install the latest version of *NeoOffice* and start it up. Then to open a *Word* document, you can drag it onto the *NeoOffice* icon in the Dock or use **File > Open** and navigate to it. The document should retain its formatting and appear as if you had opened it in *Word* itself.



02 To create a document from scratch, choose **File > New Text Document** or use the **⌘+[N]** keyboard shortcut. There are all the tools you need for inserting formatting and styling of text and objects, spell-checking and there's even a Thesaurus. Use the toolbars or the drop-down menus to format your document.



03 Once you have finished, you can save your file as a *Word* document for compatibility with other *Office* users. Go to **File > Save As**, and from the drop-down list, choose the most appropriate version of *Word*. At present this is probably a *Word 97/2000/XP* file. The file will open normally in *Word* on a PC. ●

to the functionality with Mac-specific features like media browser support, horizontal scroll wheel support and more.

Creative applications

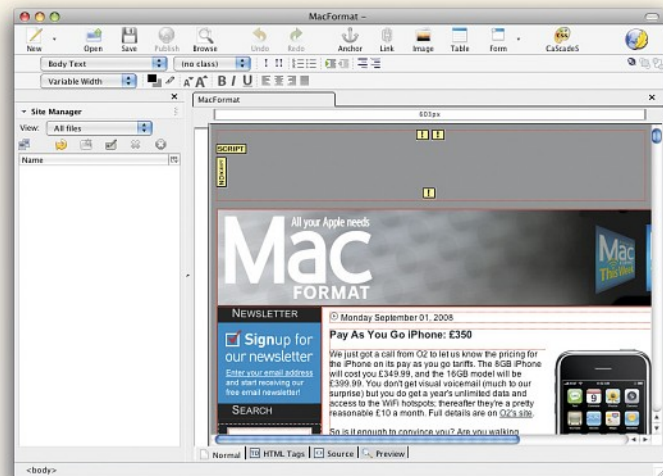
Adobe *Photoshop* is the leading image-editing program on the market, but even its basic version still costs. Instead, check out *GIMP*. It has many of the features of *Photoshop* including image retouching, batch processing, format conversion and more. There's an active community writing free plug-ins and you can view online tutorials to get a sense of what it's capable of. Adobe CS3, of which *Photoshop* is a part, is powerful but expensive. For some of its components there are free alternatives. *Dreamweaver*, for example, is a heavyweight web design and development application. For a free solution, try *Kompozer*. It doesn't have all the features of *Dreamweaver*, but it's lightweight and supports the easy creation of forms, tables and HTML and has an FTP client built in.

If you like to use *Illustrator* to create graphics but think it's expensive, *Inkscape* is worth a look. It's an open source vector graphics editor with an advanced set of tools for creating and manipulating vector graphics. A quick look at the online showcase of work created with the software shows it's more than capable of holding its own. There are extensive tutorials available at www.inkscape.org to help you understand the process and what the program can do. Anyone working with DTP or layout will have heard of *QuarkXPress* or *InDesign*, but will also know that they're not cheap. *Scribus* enables you to create great-looking documents in a similar way. It has publishing features like CMYK colour, separations, ICC colour management and the ability to create PDF files.

Budget movie making

iMovie is a great video-editing package, if a little limited compared to something like *Final Cut Pro* or even *Final Cut Express*, though they cost money, of course. *Jahshaka* is an open source video editing and compositing tool that runs on a number of platforms. As well as editing video, it lets you create special effects, animate objects on film, paint on moving pictures, create music and work at

MPEG Streamclip can open, edit and convert movie files of different kinds and it's included in the software on the disc.



Kompozer is a lightweight and easy-to-follow web design application and a great alternative to Adobe *Dreamweaver*.

multiple resolutions in different formats. It doesn't feel particularly Mac-like, but free applications with this functionality are few and far between. Another great video app is *MPEG Streamclip*, which functions like Apple's *Compressor* that you normally only get with *Final Cut*. It's a video convertor, player and editor and can encode video files to multiple formats including iPod. It can also cut, trim and join movies and download video from YouTube and Google Video.

The only drawback with some of these ports of open source software is that they require *X11*. You can find this on your OS X install DVD. See <http://xquartz.macosforge.org/trac/wiki/X112.3.0> for more. These apps may not have the slick interface or extensive feature-set of their commercial rivals, but they will do all you need when it comes to office or media creation and manipulation tasks.

QUICK TIP



Software demos

You can often try out commercial software by downloading time or feature-limited demos to get a feel of how they work. In many cases you may find that the slightly more rough-and-ready feel of open source software is a trade-off well worth making for a price tag of zero.

Free online services

There's a high demand for online services, and you can get them for free

QUICK TIP



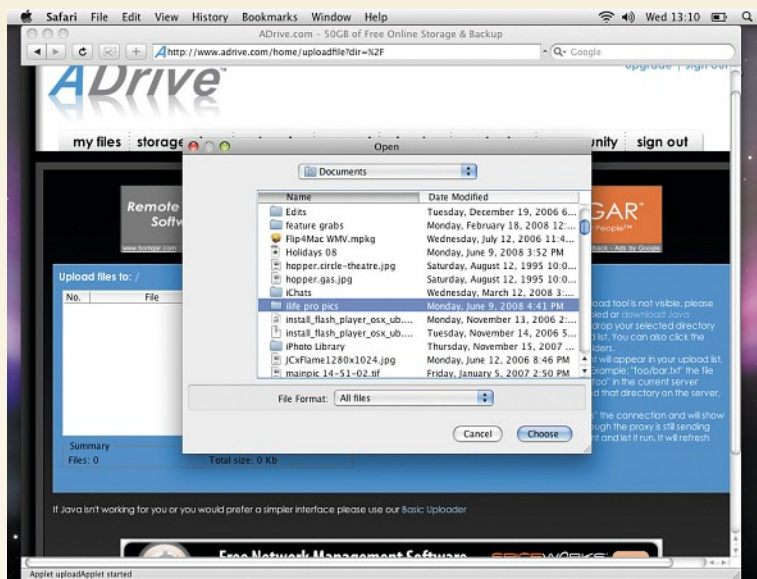
Cheaper broadband

There are a variety of free or very cheap broadband deals available depending on where you look. Typically, they come as part of a mobile phone or home phone and cable TV package. A cursory web search will unearth many different offers.

Apple's MobileMe service, previously iMac, is a suite of online tools and services that lets you store data and documents remotely as well as syncing different kinds of information between several Macs. The great thing about it is that it integrates with OS X and iLife, which are mostly able to upload videos, galleries and websites directly to your personal web space. This is thanks to the fact that Apple controls the software and the online tools, so synchronisation is easy. But MobileMe costs £59 a year or £89 for a family pack. You'll not get the same level of integration, but it's possible to replicate much of its functionality using a selection of free online services.

Online storage

Online storage is getting more and more popular as a backup method. Despite the many home broadband connections having slower upload speeds than download, it's still possible to transfer data upstream in a reasonable time. Also, the storage capacities of server farms have become bigger and cheaper. Apple's iDisk is integrated into *Finder*, so if you do have MobileMe you can jump straight to it. However there are alternatives. GMX Mail (<http://mail-eu.gmx.com>) is primarily a free email service but also offers free online file storage. You get 1GB of space for any kinds of files, protected by a

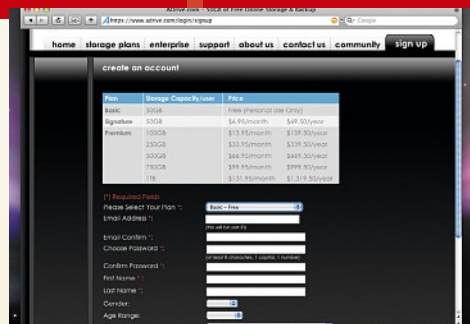


ADrive offers a Mac-compatible program for scheduling secure online backups as well as a *Finder* plug-in.

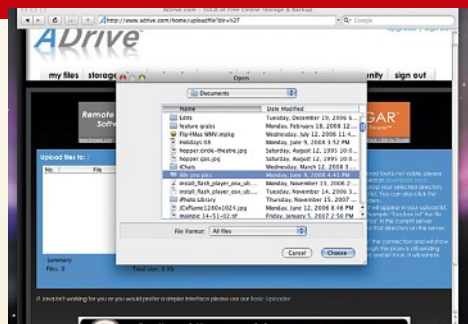
secure SSL connection. Access is via a browser so you can get at your files from any computer with a net connection. By creating an alias to the drive you can access it easily from the Desktop. ADrive (www.adrive.com) offers a huge 50GB of storage space with its basic account, works through a browser and supports OS X. It also allows file sharing, folder uploads and features an online document editor, which claims to let you edit word

documents online without having to save files locally before opening them. Xdrive (www.xdrive.com) offers a similar package with 5GB storage space. The downloadable tools are Windows only but you can still perform uploads and downloads via a browser. Humyo (www.humyo.com) offers 30GB of space with the basic free plan as well as mobile phone access, but no encrypted transfer. All of these plans feature an upgrade

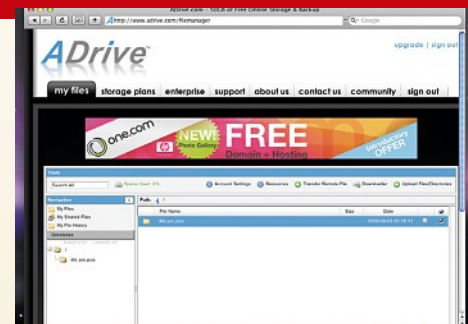
STEP BY STEP Set up an ADrive storage account



01 Go to www.adrive.com and create an account. In this example we will choose the free option. Once you have received your account detail confirmation by email, log in to the site. Initially, of course, there is nothing stored in your free 50GB of space, so it's just sat there waiting for you to add some content.

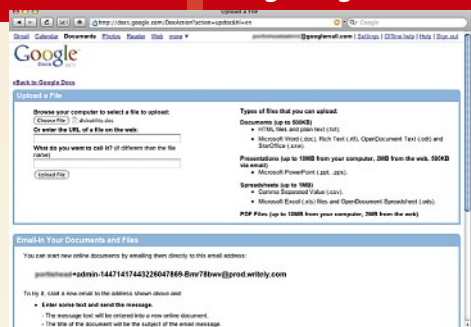


02 Click on **Upload Files/Directories** on the top-right of the site's toolbar. From the next screen, click the **Add** button to select a folder or a number of items to upload. You can actually choose whole folders and the site will recognise all files within that folder. When finished, hit the **Upload** button.



03 A progress window displays the upload; once finished, you are returned to the main screen. Here you can view all your uploaded folders and their contents using an explorer-style view. By clicking on the magnifying glass icon you can choose to move, copy or delete folders and items between virtual directories. ●

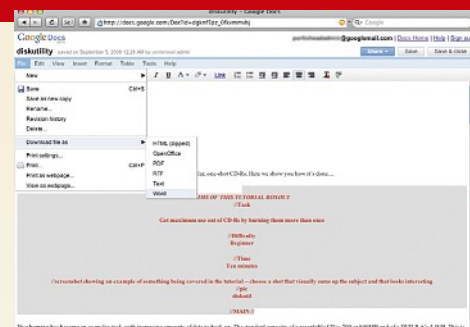
STEP BY STEP Using Google Docs



01 If you don't have a Google/Gmail account, set one up at www.google.co.uk. Log in and go to Google Docs. To begin with you could try uploading a document for others to collaborate on. Click the **Upload** button in the toolbar. You will see that you can upload *Word* and text files, PDFs, *PowerPoint* files and spreadsheets amongst others.



02 The document will display in a way fitting the kind of document it is. So here a *Word* document opens in a word processing interface. You can perform all kinds of editing and formatting to the text as well as inserting pictures, tables and more. The site automatically saves what's on the screen as you go.



03 You can use the **Share** menu to invite others to view and edit the document, or email it as an attachment. To re-save it locally after collaborating, use the command **File > Download file as > Word**. Also use the **Revision History** option to see who has made changes and when those changes were made.

option of some sort that gives you more space and features.

Online backup

Some online services are more focused on backup than file sharing, and a good example is iDrive (www.idrive.com – see full review on p93). With low system requirements, it features a downloadable application with scheduling and logging features specially for the Mac as well as a *Finder* plug-in. The software features incremental backups so only changed files are copied, data compression for faster transfers, 128-bit SSL encryption, automatic backup of key folders, snapshots, bandwidth throttling and a facility to power off the Mac after a backup completes. The *Finder* plug-in gives you drag and drop access to your 2GB of online space with a basic account, or you can upgrade to get 150GB for just \$5 (£2.50) a month. You may also want to look at Mozy (<http://mozy.com/mac>) which gives you 2GB of free space and a downloadable backup program for Mac that also features strong encryption, scheduling and incremental backup.

Free email has been around for a while, but the amount of storage you get is now incredible. Gmail has an ever-increasing upper limit and is now up at around 7GB for every standard, free mail account. Even Hotmail, which for a long time lagged behind in the storage stakes, now offers 5GB. Gmail's spam filtering is very good and it offers some handy tools like forwarding and aliases. Google, in its quest for world domination, also offers Google Docs, a suite of tools which lets you create and store documents online. You can also upload documents from

your Desktop and work on them, collaborating with others. There's online chatting so you can work on documents at the same time, logging of who did what, virtual online storage, and the ability to save a copy back to your local machine. Google also offers a broader suite of services for free and tools including Google Calendar, Sites and Talk.

Free hosting

iLife can upload pictures and movies to MobileMe, but there are free alternatives. There's Flickr.com, of course, and a number of tools to upload images directly to it from iPhoto as well as batch editing them prior to upload. jUploadr (<http://juploadr.org/>) is a great example. For image hosting, www.picturetrail.com supports all kinds of tricks like sending digital postcards, site statistics and privacy options. Photobucket (www.photobucket.com) is similar and can also

"You can replicate much of Mobile.Me's functionality using a selection of free online tools and services"

host videos, as can www.zippyvideos.com. The most obvious way to create an online video channel is to use YouTube, though you are at the mercy of the default compression settings which can look blocky, and also a size and length limit on each individual video.

GarageBand is adept at creating podcasts as well as music but if you don't have a MobileMe account, you can host

them online for free. www.podbean.com features the possibility to make some money from advertising if your podcast is popular, and www.mypodcast.com offers unlimited storage and bandwidth as well as templates to get you started. As soon as a podcast becomes popular it will use tons of bandwidth as it is downloaded, so finding free hosting is essential.

Finally, it's fairly easy to find free web hosting. If you have home broadband, the chances are you have some free web space. The only problem is the URL will be a little clumsy, as it will probably incorporate the name of your ISP. There are many companies that will host your site for free if you buy a domain through them, or if you refer a friend, such as www.doteasy.com. An alternative would be to buy a domain but point it towards your free, ISP-provided web space, which is the cheapest way to host a site.

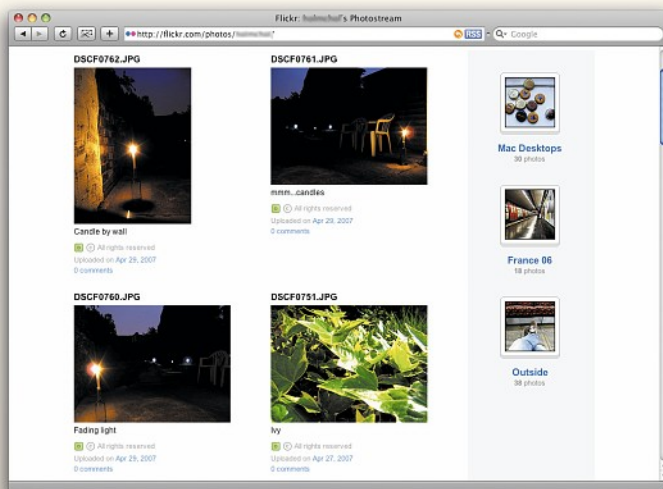
QUICK TIP



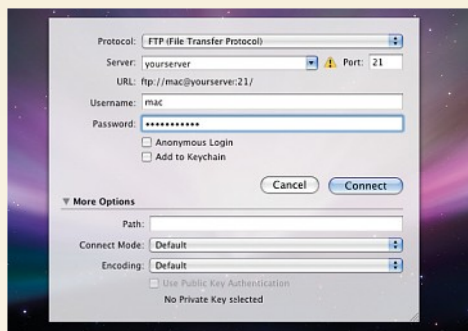
Ad-based free services

As advertising revenue has become a major source of income for websites, more and more are offering free services in return for your putting up with a few ads on the page. You can also make money back by using Google AdSense and other systems on your blog or website.

Flickr.com offers a great basic free image hosting package plus some helpful tools, including ones to upload iPhoto images.



Applications



Cyberduck

Mac OS X 10.4 or later



Cyberduck is an excellent FTP client with support for a number of secure file-transfer protocols including WebDAV. It also integrates beautifully with OS X and can use Quick Look in 10.5, Spotlight, bookmarks, Bonjour networking, iDisk bookmarks, SSH and your Mac's keychain for saving passwords and login details. Slick, lightweight and very easy to use, it makes paid alternatives look clunky by comparison. It's the perfect partner for *iWeb*, which lacks a dedicated FTP tool.

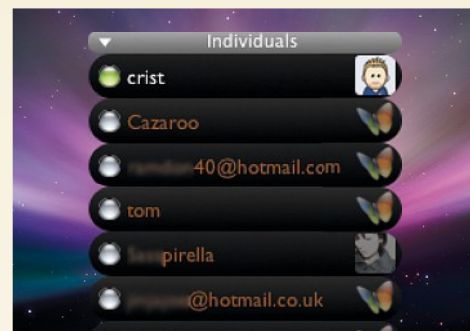


Livestation

Mac OS X 10.4 or later, Intel Macs only



Livestation lets you stream hundreds of TV stations over the web including leading news stations like BBC World News and the World Service, France 24, CNN, Bloomberg and more. You can also subscribe to any channel that broadcasts online and the site contains lists of channels of all kinds including music and comedy. It can even key in to webcam streams and radio stations. By gathering all your favourite channels together you avoid the tedium of having to visit websites to access the feed.



Adium

Mac OS X 10.4. or higher



iChat is great but can't currently interface with all the multitude of instant messaging protocols, limited as it is to AIM and .Mac logins. *Adium*, on the other hand, can deal with pretty much any protocol under the sun and also manage all your accounts in one place, so you can communicate with friends on different networks from within a single application. Even better, it can be extensively customised almost beyond recognition. Its only real drawback is that it doesn't currently support video.



VLC Media Player

Mac OS X 10.3.9 or higher



Increasing broadband speeds have seen an explosion in the popularity of online video, both legitimate and otherwise. This has also meant that there are a lot more video codecs in use across the web and the computing world, many of which the *QuickTime Player* is not able to play. You can install the Perian codec pack to fix some of these issues, but if you want a video player that can open pretty much any video file, try *VLC*. It's not the prettiest software in the world, but it will open movies that nothing else can.

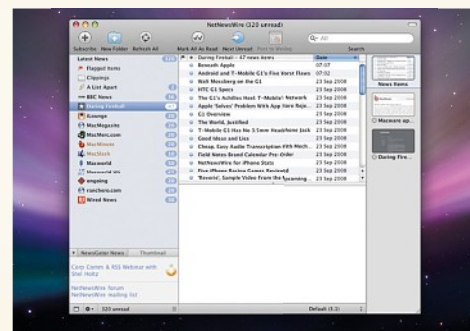


Transmission

Mac OS X 10.5. or higher



Although it is perhaps better known for its role in piracy, the BitTorrent protocol was originally conceived as an entirely legitimate file-sharing tool, and it is still used as such by many people. People who have to distribute large files legitimately but can't pay for the bandwidth often create torrent files of the data to spread the load much more widely. *Transmission* is far and away the best BitTorrent client for the Mac that we have so far come across. It's clean, lightweight, well-designed and very flexible.



NetNewsWire

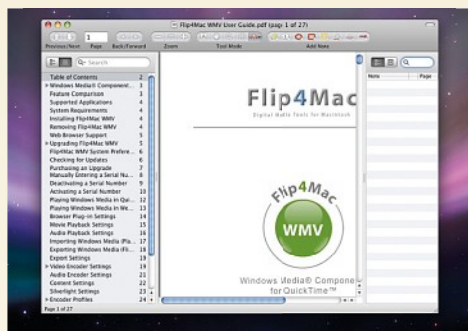
Mac OS X 10.4. or higher



If you like to keep up to date with all the latest news from several news websites, it can be a rather tricky task. There is a very impressive tool that can make it much simpler: *NetNewsWire*. *NetNewsWire* is an RSS reader and aggregator. Integrated with Spotlight, *Address Book*, *iCal*, *iPhoto*, *Growl* and *Twitter*, it supports clever features like smart lists, tabs and the ability to email stories to people. It's also able to download podcasts and synchronise with NewsGator Online (www.newsgator.com).

for free

We have some excellent programs on this issue's cover disc to help you get the most out of your Mac...

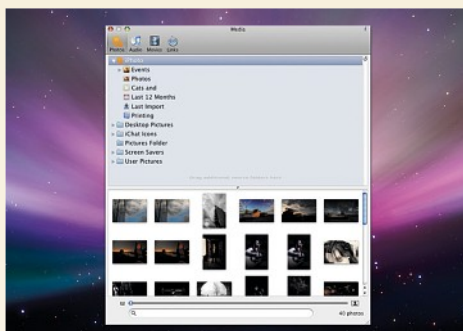


Skim

Mac OS X 10.4. or higher



Mac OS X's built-in *Preview* application is good, but it is also lacking in some areas when it comes to working with PDFs. *Skim* is a free and lightweight PDF application which lets you not only view PDFs, but also lets you add and edit notes to the file, highlight text in different ways, take snapshots, create presentations with transitions, magnify documents and add bookmarks. It even supports the Apple Remote control and can automatically download remote PDFs. What more could you need from a PDF viewer?

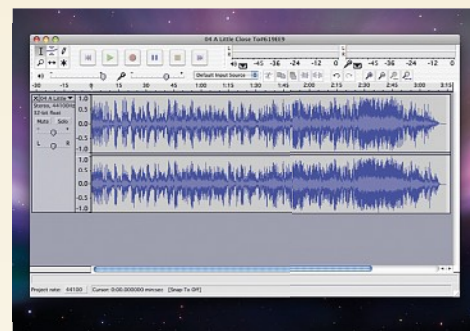


iMedia Browser

Mac OS X 10.4. or higher



iMedia Browser takes the concept of Apple's media browser found in *iLife* and *iWork* and extends it to *Finder*. Essentially, it lets you browse your media without having to open any specific application in order to be able to see a preview. It is able to detect your library folders for programs including Apple's own *Aperture*, *iPhoto*, *iTunes*, *GarageBand*, your *Movies* folder and your web bookmarks. Additionally, you can drop any folder into the source list to quickly preview its contents.

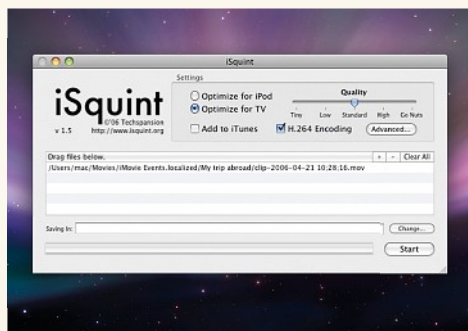


Audacity

Mac OS X 10.4. or higher



Audacity is a free, open source program for recording and editing audio on your Mac. It can see your internal soundcard or any third-party interface you have installed on your system and can play back and edit Vorbis, MP3, AIFF or WAV files. It's great for making podcasts or converting old tapes or vinyl to MP3s for your iPod. It also enables you to add effects, edit audio and make a mix of your audio. It can even change the speed and pitch of recordings. It really does offer some great features for a free program.



iSquint

Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later



Although it's less feature-heavy than its bigger, paid sibling *VisualHub* (\$24 (£12) www.techspansion.com/visualhub), *iSquint* is still an excellent free solution for converting video of almost any format into iPod format so you can watch it on the move on your video-capable iPod. It's very simple to use and much faster at conversion than the *QuickTime Player*. There's even an **Advanced** menu which lets more advanced users specify new frame sizes and rates and audio settings for their converted videos.



OnyX

Versions for OS X 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5



System maintenance and cleaning is fairly important, but Apple doesn't directly provide tools for this as part of OS X. Titanium Software (www.titanium.free.fr) makes the free *OnyX*, and it's got some amazing features from cleaning out obsolete and temporary items and caches to rebuilding system databases, repairing permissions and customising the way OS X appears and behaves. There's a different version for each major revision of OS X. We have the one for Leopard users on this issue's disc.



iStat pro

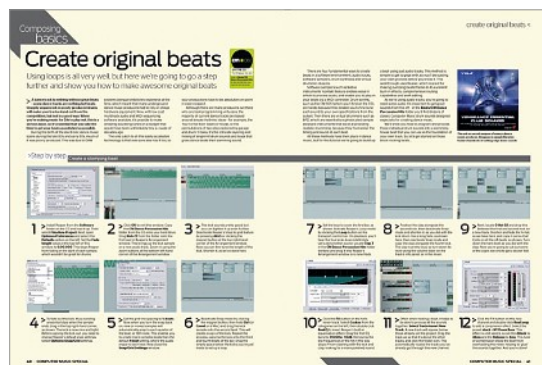
Mac OS X 10.4 or higher



It's always good to be able to see information about what's going on under the hood of your Mac, either for troubleshooting purposes or just to better understand how it all works. *iStat Pro* is a free widget that displays practically all the stats you could ever need about your Mac including CPU load, uptime, battery status, network activity, temperatures, fan speed, running processes and more. You can show or hide any sections and arrange them as you like, even changing the colour of the widget. ●

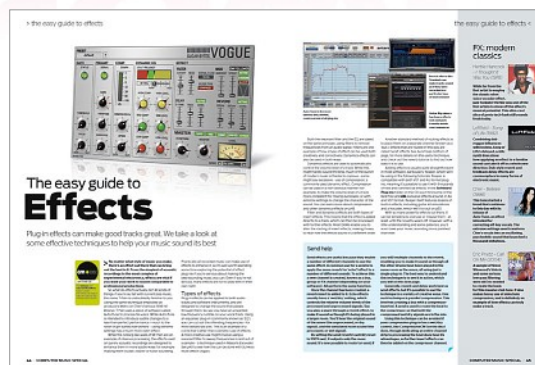
COMPLETE BEGINNER'S GUIDE

With a software studio on the disc and step-by-step tutorials inside, it's everything you need to get started!



FUNDAMENTALS

Learn the most essential music production and composition skills, step-by-step



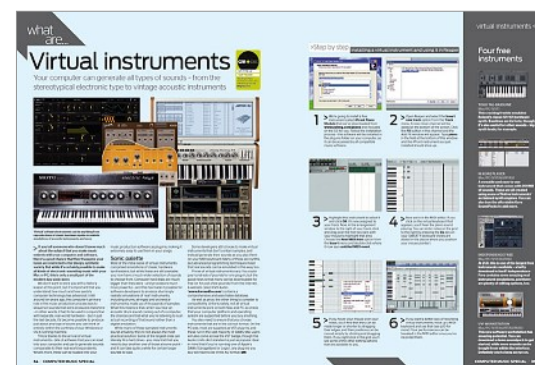
EASY GUIDES

Sampling, synthesis, effects... discover the power of these three cornerstones of modern music



MAKE A COMPLETE TRACK

How to make metal, dance and hip-hop tracks - we walk you through the entire process



WHAT ARE..?

Get your head around the various components that make up a computer music studio

ON SALE NOW

Computer Music Special 32 - Complete Beginner's Guide is available from selected WH Smith, Borders, Barnes & Noble and independent newsagents, or online from www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk



We've gone a bit *iLife* crazy this issue. Turn to page 51 for an in-depth tutorial on Apple's music-playing jukebox app, *iTunes*. We don't just show you the basics; there's tips, tricks and pro techniques that extend this simple little application far beyond just organising

and playing your music collection.

iTunes is also the star of a tutorial from *MacFormat's* editor, Graham, which showcases Apple's free application for controlling *iTunes* from your iPhone or iPod touch. It's a gem, and could spell the end for multi-room audio systems such as Sonos.

iPhoto and *iMovie* are featured, too, along with a brace of cracking tutorials from Craig Grannell on some very cool OS X utilities. We haven't ignored the more advances users, though; Trevor Middleton shows you how to set up a web server, and I've written a masterclass in using WDS to extend your WiFi!



Remote control your *iTunes* p48



In-depth with *iTunes* p51



Extend your WiFi network p58



In this issue...

CREATIVE

Turn holiday snaps into art 40

APPLE

Choose the best images 42

Use still images in iMovie '08 44

Get more from iTunes 51

Master iChat 56

SYSTEM

Build your own web server 46

Make an iTunes remote 48

Extend a wireless network 58

Stream music to your iPhone 64

DVD

Create keyboard shortcuts 60

How to...

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

Next issue

Next month, we've got some real goodies lined up for you. We'll have another slew of *iLife* tutorials, including a hands-on walkthrough on creating a website in *iWeb*, and on exporting your images from *iPhoto* in lots of different ways. Tech guru Trevor Middleton will also turn the spotlight on Apple's back-up engine, *Time Machine*, to help you keep your data secure.



Build a website with *iWeb*



Export your pics from *iPhoto*



Master *Time Machine*

Did you know?

You can quickly hide all your other applications

The commands to hide individual applications (⌘+[H]) or hide all other applications (⌘+⇧+[H]) are very handy, but one of the best ways to clear the clutter from your Mac is to hold down ⌘ and ⇧ when you click on any app's icon in your Dock. Your Mac will switch to that app, then instantly hide all the others. It's particularly useful as a way to switch to *Finder* to manage your files without any distractions, and it will automatically open a new *Finder* window as well.





With some *Photoshop Elements* magic and 15 minutes, you can turn a photo into a stunning watercolour print.

Turn holiday snaps into art

With a bit of imagination, ordinary holiday snaps can be turned into great little paintings

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Adobe *Photoshop Elements 6* for Mac (£58, www.adobe.com/uk)
- A pretty picture
- 15 minutes of your time



When you're on holiday, it's a really good idea to use your digital camera to capture the local flavours of your destination by snapping small details that define the spirit of the place you're visiting. For instance, don't just take photos of the landmarks or historical monuments. Try taking photos of everyday things, too, like window frames, doorways, flowers, house numbers or anything else that gives a special and unique flavour of your holiday destination. This will make for great memories and keepsakes in the years to come. They're also great little filler shots for illustrating photo albums of your holidays.

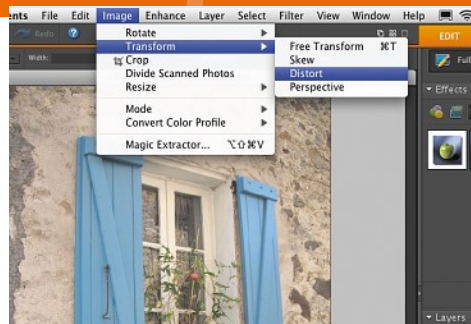
"With imagination you can turn these little cameos into pieces of art that would look lovely in a small frame"

On their own, these casual types of detail photos are fun to look at and great aides de memoir of your holiday, but at first sight they don't look as if they're necessarily worth framing or printing. But with a little thought and imagination you can turn these little cameos into pieces of art that would look lovely in a small frame on a bedroom wall.

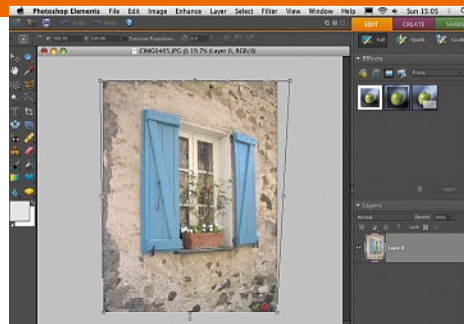
In this tutorial, we're going to show you how, in a few simple steps, you can turn one of these keepsake snaps into a stunning masterpiece. The steps involve nothing more than giving the photo an artistic rather than a photographic perspective, and then applying *Photoshop Elements*' **Watercolor** filter to give it that real arty feel.

So, without further ado, let's take our sample photo of a house window from the south of France, and we'll work it up into a little print that will look great in a 6x4 mount and a pretty little wooden photo frame. When finished, the prints would make great gifts.

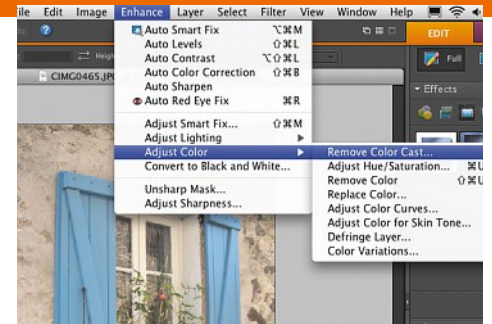
Mark Sparrow

STEP BY STEP Turn a simple snap into a beautiful watercolour print

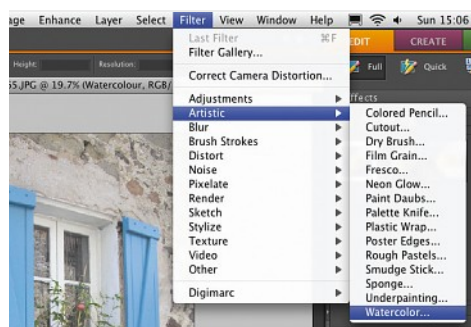
01 Here's our shot of a French window. Before we get arty we're going to straighten the perspective so it looks like a watercolour painted by eye, rather than copied from a photo. The slanting lens distortion would be a dead giveaway otherwise. Go to Image > Transform > Distort to fix this.



02 Zoom out a bit and then grab the top-left corner of the frame and stretch it out until the shutter becomes parallel with the edge of the frame. Do the same on the right to even that side up, too. When you're happy with the result, click on the green tick mark.



03 Create a duplicate layer before going any further. We do this to rein in some of the wilder effects of the **Watercolor** filter we'll apply later. Before we carry on, go to Enhance > Adjust Color > Remove Color Cast to get rid of the slight yellowish colour in the window frame.



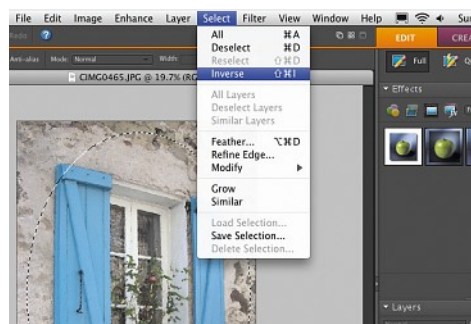
04 Now we'll start on the art part. Go to Filter > Artistic > Watercolor to add the painting effect. You can do this with any image, but it works better on certain types of images. Experimentation is key. When we've applied the **Watercolor** filter, we'll tone it down a bit by reducing the opacity of the layer.



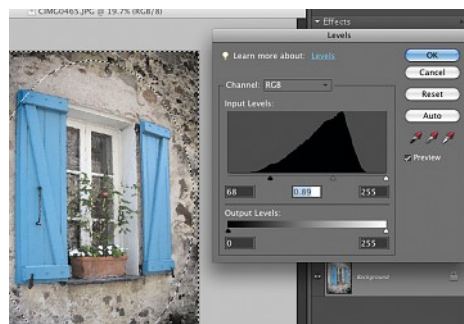
05 We've altered the **Brush Detail**, **Shadow Intensity** and **Texture** sliders from the default settings. The actual settings you use will vary depending on your original file, so be prepared to try different settings. This filter is processor intensive, so you may need a bit of patience while it renders the effect.



06 If the effect is too strong, just reduce the opacity of the layer. This is why we created a duplicate layer earlier on. Reducing a layer's opacity simply allows some of the layer below to show through. The amount of opacity you need to use will depend on your **Watercolor** settings.



07 To put more emphasis on the window we'll create a simple vignette or dark edge to the shot. Use the **Elliptical Marquee** tool to draw an oval. Then go to the **Select** menu and choose **Inverse**. Now type **100px** in the **Feather** box to give a soft edge to the vignette.



08 Now let's darken the edges by calling up **Levels** (⇧+L) to adjust the lightness. First pull in the left-hand black triangle under the histogram to produce a darker edge. Then use the middle slider to darken things down in the mid-tones a bit. When you're finished, press **OK**.

TOOL SCHOOL

The **Elliptical Marquee** tool enables you to draw a nice oval shape that we'll use for applying the vignette effect. Practise using the tool as it's very handy for vignettes.

EXPERT TIP

Do experiment with the **Watercolor** filter's sliders. They can make a great difference, so don't just accept the default values that **Elements** offers you. Have a play around until you're happy.



Choose the best images

Use the editing powers of iPhoto to keep only your best photographs

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor
- Apple iPhoto 7 (£55, part of iLife '08, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- Images



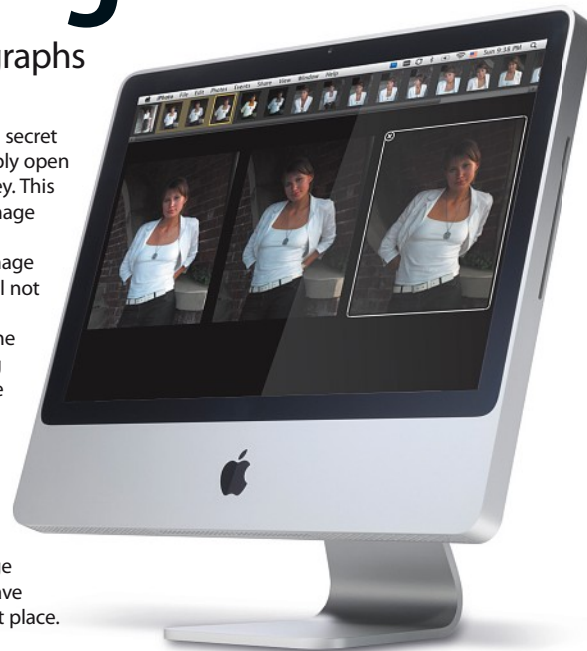
Long, long ago, when expensive camera film was common – well, about five years ago – you made every shot on your camera count. Today, with digital, there's no extra cost to shoot 100 shots of the same scene. Just like pro shooters have always done, you can take numerous shots to capture a slightly different expression, make sure a blinker's eyes are open, or try for a better angle. The problem is, once you have two or more images of the same thing, you need to delete some, or you leave your iPhoto library cluttered with useless outtakes.

So how do the pros choose the great shot out of all those images? Typically they'll discard the images with technical flaws before they discard the images with artistic flaws. The most common technical flaws that cannot be corrected are focus and blur. If an image is not sharp, it's not

usable. iPhoto has a powerful secret tool for checking clarity. Simply open an image and press the [1] key. This enlarges the image to one image pixel for every screen pixel. Normally iPhoto resizes an image to fit the screen best, so it will not look its sharpest.

Artistic flaws range from the obvious, like lamps sprouting from heads, to the subtle, like unflattering expressions or eyes not looking directly into the camera. These subtleties can take a lot of examination – especially with group shots. Sure, it's work, but obviously the image is worth it or you wouldn't have taken 20 shots of it in the first place.

Kevin J Wolfe



TOP FEATURES | Separating the good from the bad

Events

Photos shot during the same time period are automatically stored as an Event, so it's easy to find all the duplicates that need sorting.

Zoom

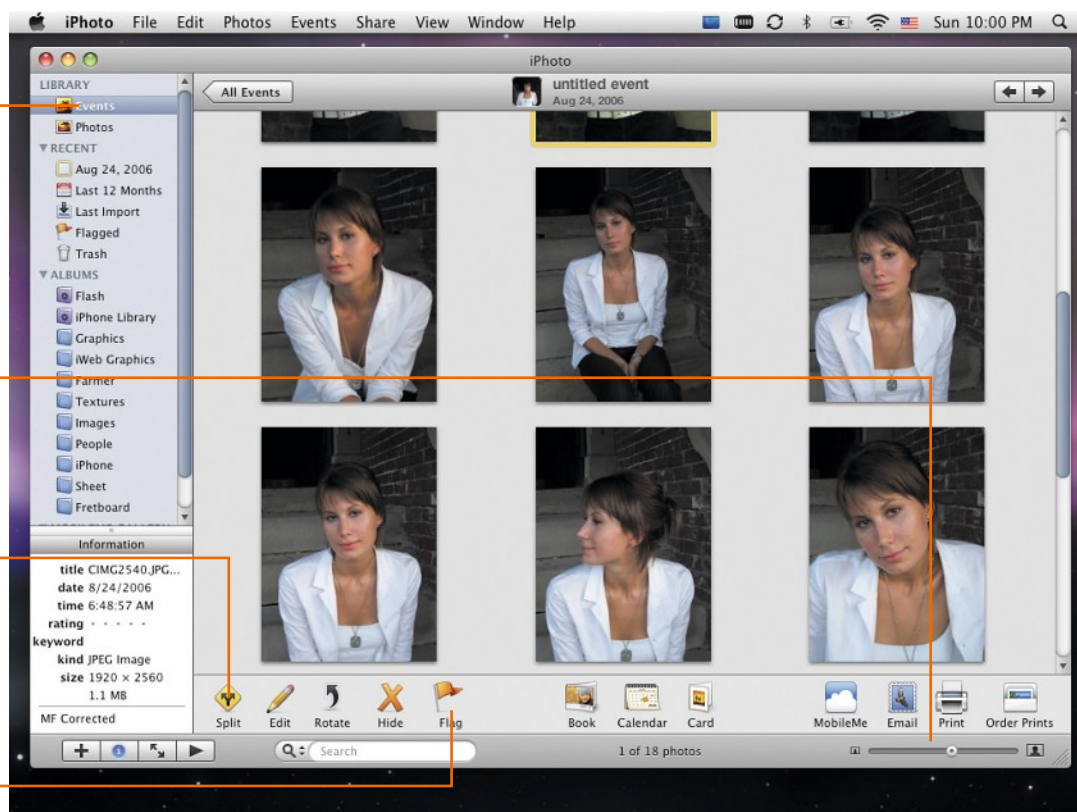
Thumbnails can be too small to look at when choosing which images to keep. Zoom in on them to make comparing multiple images easier.

Split

You iPhoto Events can be split into smaller events and contain only the images in sequence that you want to compare.

Flag

If you are undecided on which images you want to keep, use the Flag button to mark your potential keepers to return to later.



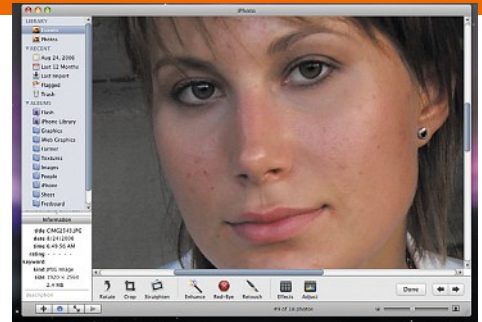
STEP BY STEP Streamline your iPhoto library



01 Click on **Events** in your **Library** list. Scroll through your Events to find the one where the series of photos you want to scrutinise resides. Double-click on the Event thumbnail to open it. If you'd like to split the Event so it contains only specific images, highlight the image you'd like the Event to start with and press the [S] key.



02 Double-click on the first image in your series you'd like to review. Press the [1] key to enlarge the chosen image. You can scroll around the image with the scroll bars, but it's much easier if you have a mouse like a Mighty Mouse with a scroll ball or the double-finger scrolling trackpad that allows both horizontal and vertical movement.



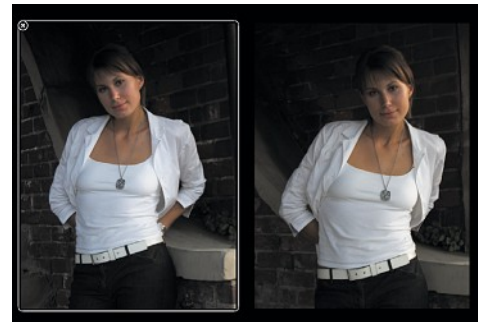
03 All areas of an image won't necessarily be in focus, so just check what's important. If you find a bad image, press the [Delete] key and the next image appears. If you'd like to keep the image, press the [End] (or right arrow) key to keep it and go to the next image. Click **Done** when you've reviewed all images.



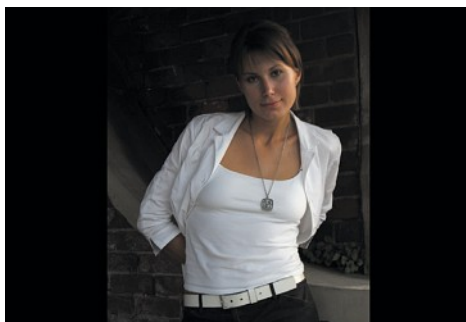
04 Once you're rid of the obviously bad images, it's time to focus on your maybes. Go to **Full Screen** view by pressing ⌘+⌘+[F]. In the thumbnail row, click on the image you want to start with. ⇧-click on the last image you want to compare. Six is about the limit.



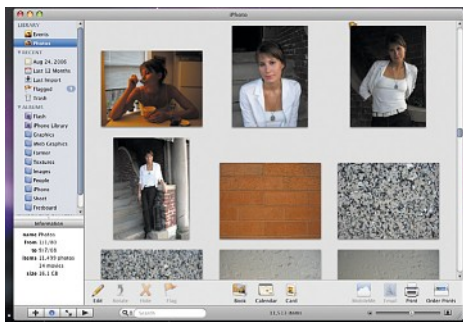
05 Examine the composition and overall exposure of each image. Don't necessarily cast out a great shot because it's slightly under or overexposed, or has an incorrect colour cast. These are often correctable, usually with just a click of the **Enhance** button. Flag it to return to later by clicking on it to highlight it, then press ⌘+[.]



06 Double-click on a black area of the screen. Click the **Flagged** icon in your **Library** list. Press ⌘+⌘+[F]. At this point in your editing process, you may have it down to as few as two images or as many as a dozen. Check out the image critically and ⇧-click on multiple images to compare.



07 Ask yourself: is there one angle that works better? If so, you can delete the images from other angles by pressing ⌘+⌘+[Delete], though you may want to keep one shot from each angle. Which image from that angle shows the best composition? Even if the images look very similar, eventually one calls out to you as the keeper.



08 You may have keepers that express different sentiments, like one image with the subject looking into the camera and one of them looking away. Go to **Library > Photos**. The remaining flagged photo should be your final choice. Highlight images you've ruled out and press [Delete]. Click on each keeper and then click the **Unflag** icon. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

You can easily flip through the thumbnails of an Event by rolling the cursor over the Event thumbnail. This lets you see quickly which folders need some editing.



EXPERT TIP



Some people may want to keep all the images they take. If you do want to keep a copy of every image, get in the habit of backing up new images to CD or DVD monthly, before you make any cuts.

Use still images in iMovie '08

The Ken Burns effect has been revamped and simplified in the latest version of iMovie

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple iMovie 7.1.4 or later (£55, part of iLife '08, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- A collection of digital stills
- 25 minutes of your time

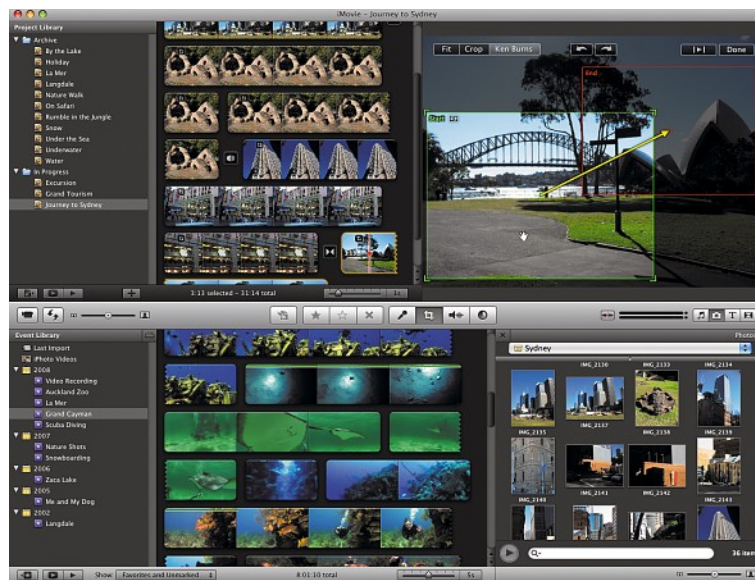


When Apple introduced the **Ken Burns** effect with iMovie 3 back in 2003, it made the application accessible to many more users than before, since all you needed then to create a short film was a simple digital stills camera.

Although it was possible to create QuickTime movies straight from iPhoto, this option offered you no control over the outcome: the shots were merely shown full sized over music. Using iMovie required more work, which some people thought would be a steep learning curve, but at least you could edit something to be a lot more vibrant and interesting.

“With iMovie '08, the Ken Burns effect has been revised. It is now a much more visual tool and easier to use”

The drawback of using the **Ken Burns** effect was that it was a little unwieldy: it was hard to understand at first how exactly to use it, as it relied heavily on buttons and sliders. Once zoomed in to set your start or end frame, there was no way of seeing the whole image without altering one of your set points. Another problem with the old iMovie was the fact that there was no way to alter it once the



iMovie '08 has revamped the Ken Burns effect and made it easier to use than with previous versions.

effect had been applied, aside from getting the image again and starting from scratch.

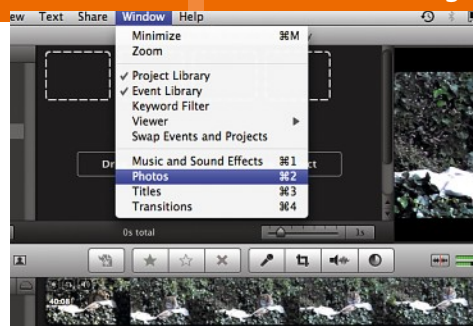
With iMovie '08, the **Ken Burns** effect has been completely revised. It is now a much more visual tool and consequently, much easier to use. Everything is done on the image itself rather than relying on buttons and sliders, which makes it clearer to understand. On top of which,

as with everything else in iMovie '08, your effect isn't set in stone: you can alter it as many times as you need, letting you experiment without fear of being forced to start from scratch should you change your mind.

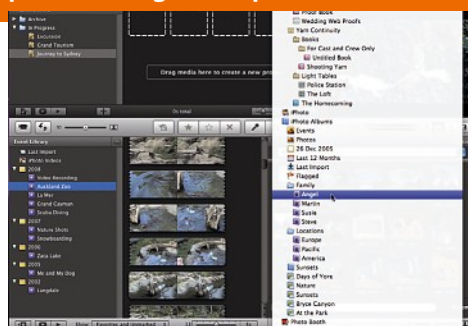
The new **Ken Burns** effect is a lot of fun to use, and we'll teach you all about it over the next two pages.

Steve Paris

STEP BY STEP Pan and scan through a picture using the improved Ken Burns effect



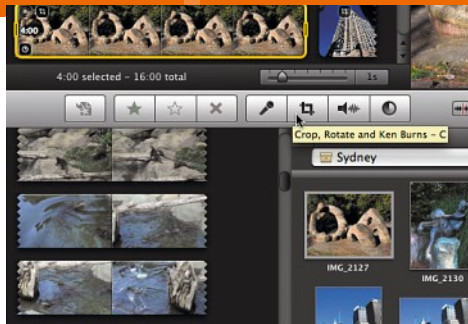
01 Open iMovie, start a new project and reveal the **Photo Browser**: to the toolbar's right are four **Browser** buttons. Select the one with a camera inside it (second from the left). You can also activate it by using the menu bar and going to Window > Photos or, if you prefer keyboard shortcuts, by hitting **⌘+2**.



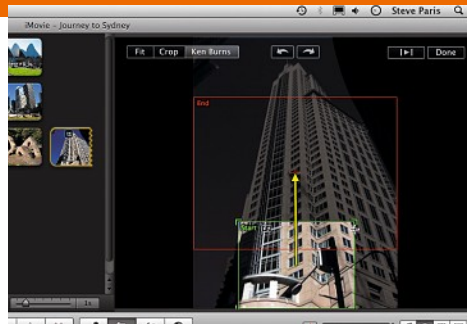
02 The browser lets you see all images stored in Aperture, iPhoto and Photo Booth, including any events, albums or projects that you have created. There is even a search field at the bottom to help you find the one you need quickly, as long as it was labelled properly (you can search through filenames, descriptions, keywords, etc.).



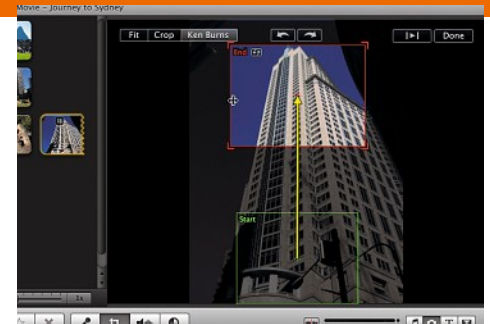
03 Drag the photo you wish to use from the browser onto the **Project** section. Make sure you do not release the mouse over an existing clip (turning that clip blue) as iMovie will then consider the new addition to be an overlay and you won't be able to modify it. A thick green line will show you where your photo will be inserted.

STEP BY STEP Pan and scan through a picture using the improved Ken Burns effect... continued

04 Mouse over it to skim through your image. Notice that a generic **Ken Burns** effect has automatically been applied to it. To modify it, select the photo to highlight it (a yellow border surrounds it). Next, go to the toolbar and click on the **Crop** button. You could also just hit the [C] key to save you some time.



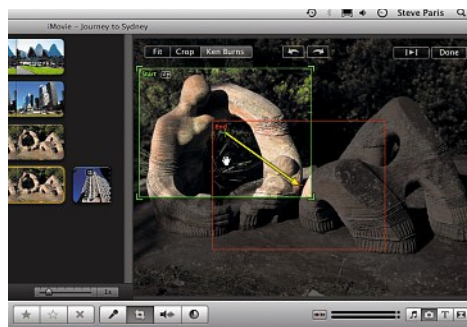
05 The **Viewer** window displays your photo along with two rectangles: one green and one red. The former sets where you are in the image when the effect starts, and the latter where you are when it ends. Move the **Start** rectangle to its desired location. To resize it, click on one of the corner handles to shrink or expand it.



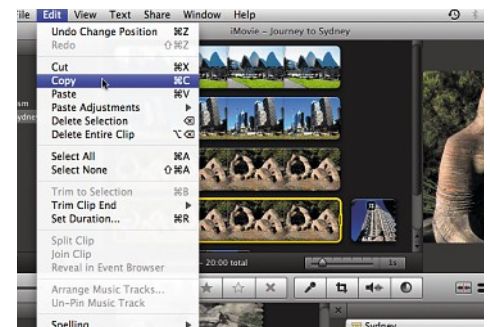
06 To select the red **End** rectangle, click on it (if the two rectangles are very close together and difficult to separate, clicking on an overlapping part will swap the selection from one to the other). To zoom in or out without changing the rectangle's central position, click and drag one of its borders, not a corner.



07 To navigate through multiple parts of an image, select the clip and copy it. Next, make sure the cursor is to the right of the existing clip and paste it using ⌘+[V]. Notice that each photo clip has a crop icon in the top left-hand corner. Click on that newly pasted clip's icon to open up the **Crop** tool.



08 Being an exact copy, the **Ken Burns** effect is identical. Start by reversing the movement within the clip: the green **Start** rectangle should already be selected. Inside it is a small black rectangle with two curved arrows. Click on it to swap direction. Leave the new **Start** rectangle where it is, but feel free to alter the new **End** rectangle.



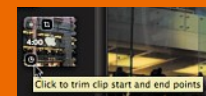
09 Play back your project: the camera now pans to two different points on your image, but what if you need to focus on the middle point for a time before moving on? Thankfully, the Apple engineers have thought of that. Copy the last clip, move the cursor so that it is in between the two existing clips and paste a new copy.



10 Go back to the **Crop** tool to alter the middle clip. As in step 8, the green **Start** rectangle is already selected. Top-left of the **Preview** window are three buttons: **Fit**, **Crop** and **Ken Burns**, with the latter being already selected. Click on **Crop** to remove the red **End** rectangle. The green one remains unaltered. Click on **Done**.



11 Since the three clips started as copies of one another, they also bear the same length. Let's shorten the middle clip so that the image doesn't stay static for too long. Select it and go to **Edit > Set Duration**. Change its length to **1:00** and make sure **Applies Only to Selected Photo** is selected. Click on **OK**.

TOOL SCHOOL

One quick way to alter a clip's duration is to mouse over it and click on its 'dock' button, located bottom-left.

EXPERT TIP

If the photograph you wish to use for the project isn't in one of your photo libraries, you can always drag it from **Finder** straight onto iMovie's **Project** section.

OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

Build your own web server

Brighten up your browsing by turning your Mac into a database-testing server



PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton

Occupation: Freelance consultant and trainer

System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), MacBook (2.16GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800)

Enabling personal web sharing on your Mac could be the start of a very big adventure.

For the past few weeks, I've been trying out a number of open source e-commerce shop-building packages on behalf of a client. The great thing is that I've been able to do this – with a little tweaking of my iMac's default system installation – completely free of charge. Now, you might not have any need for an online shopping cart or credit card facilities, but you might be getting into blogging – using the download version of *WordPress*, for instance – which utilises similar technologies. I'll venture, very briefly, into turning your Mac into a database-testing server below. First, some background.

Mac OS X is, as most of you probably know, built on BSD Unix, an open source operating system. What is less known is that much of what is on your Mac was built by adding other open source technologies to the BSD kernel, to make a robust, modular OS. One of these modules is Apache web server, which means that all you have to do is go to

System Preferences > Sharing, turn on **Web Sharing**, and your Mac will become a small-scale web server; capable, admittedly, of serving pages only to other local Macs (to turn it into a full-time web server it would need to have a unique, fixed IP address), but a web server nonetheless. You can prove this very simply: when you turn on **Web Sharing** you'll see a link to your home folder next to the tickbox; click on this, and you'll be taken to your own, personal (temporary) homepage.

Tweak and complete

If you're using *iWeb* to build yourself a personal website, you could stop here: simply bookmark your personal site

“Turn on Web Sharing, and your Mac will become a small-scale web server”

address, and you can use *iWeb*'s **Publish to a Folder** feature (go to File > Publish to a Folder...) to save it to your **Sites** folder, so that you can thoroughly test and tweak it before you finally upload it to your web space. Why would you want to do this? Well, first of all, it looks better if your website arrives fully finished – which isn't very difficult to achieve in *iWeb*, anyway. Secondly, if you're on a capped broadband tariff, it makes sense to serve up a homepage that's not on the internet, so that you can save bandwidth.

You can even, if you want, take things a stage further, as I did when testing those e-commerce packages. Most e-commerce websites consist of two parts: the web page templates, built using HTML and CSS; and a database that holds all the product information. This means a bit of twiddling to turn your Mac into a fully fledged database server. So here, very briefly, is what you'll need to do, and where to go for it:

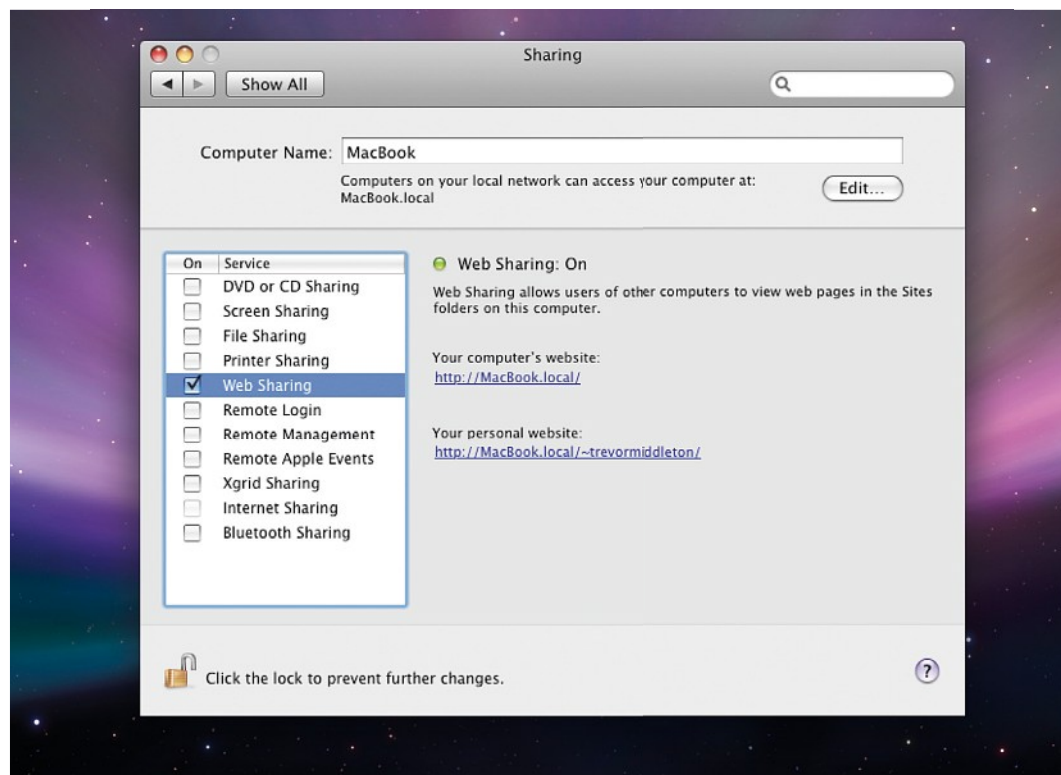
1) Download and install MySQL: MySQL is the open source database behind a huge number of websites. You'll find the Mac OS X installers at <http://tinyurl.com/ystmwk>.

2) Enable PHP: Short for Personal Home Page, PHP is already installed in Mac OS X, though it needs enabling. You can, however, download a fuller featured version from Marc Liyanage's website, <http://tinyurl.com/wjz1>. There's also excellent advice and instructions here.

3) Download and install PHPMyAdmin from www.phpmyadmin.net. This installs into your **Sites** folder, and enables you to create MySQL databases in a browser interface without entering the command line.

There are numerous forums on using PHP/MySQL with packages such as *PrestaShop* (www.prestashop.com) to create database-driven online stores. You can also use the same technologies with the *WordPress* software (www.wordpress.org) in your **~/Sites/** folder to give yourself some practice before you upload it to your own webspace (by the way, www.wordpress.com uses the same software, but it's already there for you).

The above is, admittedly, a very brief skimming of a very complex topic; feel free to explore it at your own pace. But above all, have fun doing it! ●





More Power To You

Stream HD video through an existing power outlet



3 great reasons to buy NETGEAR's HDXB101 Powerline HD Ethernet Adapter:

- PLUG AND PLAY ETHERNET CONNECTIVITY THROUGH ELECTRICAL RING
- BUILT-IN QUALITY OF SERVICE
- UP TO 200MBPS DATA RATES FOR FASTER FILE TRANSFERS

Connect one to a router, and the other to any:

PC, Games Console, Storage Device,
Slingbox, DVR or Print Server

for a robust network connection.

Make an iTunes remote

Use your iPhone or iPod touch as a handy remote control for iTunes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
- iPhone, iPhone 3G or iPod touch with 2.0 software upgrade
- WiFi internet access
- Remote app (free from the App Store)



One of the best things about Apple products is the way they all fit together as a family. Take the iPhone and iPod touch, for example. We all know that you can sync these devices with your Mac to have all your contacts, calendars and emails with you wherever you go, but you can take this integration one step further thanks to a free little app called *Remote*, which is made by Apple.

Remote enables you to use your iPhone or iPod touch as a remote control for *iTunes* on your Mac. It's a brilliantly simple idea, and as long as you have a wireless network in your house which both your Mac and iPhone or iPod touch are connected over, it works like a dream.

Remote is a free download from Apple's App Store. You may even already have it installed, but if you do it might be a good idea to update it anyway, since

the latest 1.1 update to *Remote* adds the ability to create Genius playlists in *iTunes*.

Before you can install *Remote*, owners of the original iPod touch or iPhone will need to make sure they've upgraded their software to the latest version 2.1.

For iPhone owners this is a free upgrade, but for iPod touch owners it will cost the small fee of £5.99. At this price it's worth doing, since this upgrade also enables you to add Genius playlists in the *iPod* application on your iPod touch.

In this tutorial we'll show you how to install *Remote*, set it up to talk to your Mac and also how to get it to control *iTunes* on your Mac.

To find out what else your iPhone or iPod touch can do, look out for our *MacFormat Presents The Essential iPhone Handbook* on sale from 16 October.

Graham Barlow



TOP FEATURES | Using Remote on the iPhone

Back arrow

Click the back arrow to access your *iTunes* music library. You have complete access to all the tracks in your music library through your iPhone or iPod touch.

Loop

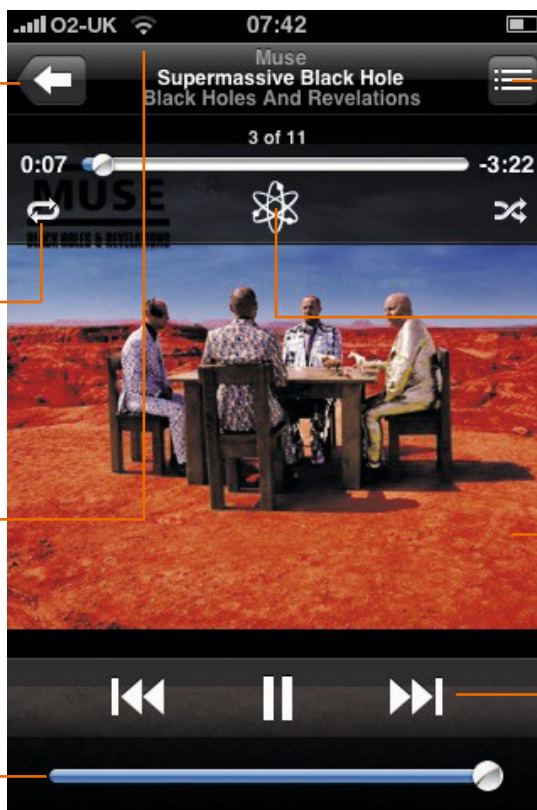
To repeat all the songs in a particular playlist, tap here once; to repeat this one song, tap twice.

WiFi network

For *Remote* to work with your Mac you need to be connected on the same WiFi network. In *Settings* on your iPhone make sure you have WiFi access enabled.

Volume

You can set the volume of the track currently playing in *iTunes* on your Mac here simply by sliding your finger up and down this bar. Here we're pretty much on full volume.



Album info

Click here to access the album listing that the currently playing track is from. This won't interfere with or change what's currently playing – it's more for reference purposes.

Genius button

Click here to create a Genius playlist in *iTunes* back on your Mac using the iPod or iPhone as a remote. Genius playlists are based on the currently playing track.

Album art

The album art for the currently playing track is displayed on the screen of your iPhone or iPod touch.

Player controls

Play, pause or skip to the next track in your playlist using the controls here. You play songs using *Remote* on your iPhone or iPod touch just as you do in the iPod app.

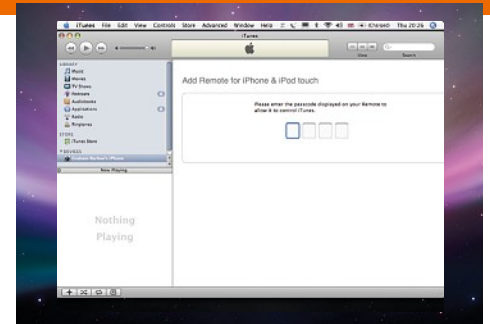
STEP BY STEP How to control iTunes with your iPod touch or iPhone



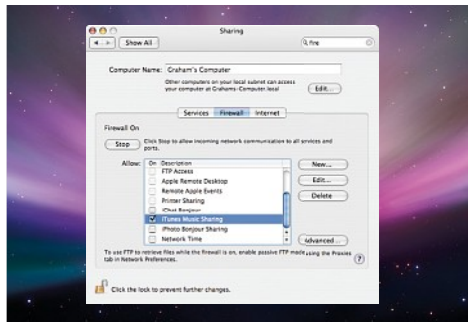
01 The first thing you need to do is download *Remote* from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch. Launch the App Store and enter *Remote* into the search box – it's easy to search this way than trawl through the hundreds of apps available – and download Apple's free app.



02 Run the *Remote* app on your iPod touch or iPhone. You'll see a **No library selected** message. Tap on **Choose Library** followed by **Add Library** and you'll see a four-digit passcode displayed on your iPhone/iPod touch's screen. You'll need this code for the next step.



03 Now you need to go back to your Mac. Select your iPhone's name in the **Devices** list, where it will appear in *iTunes*. Now enter the four-digit passcode that's displayed on your iPhone or iPod touch into the four empty boxes that are visible on your Mac.



04 If you have your Mac's built-in OS X firewall turned on, you'll need to make sure that you've enabled **iTunes Music Sharing** from the list of allowed services, otherwise *Remote* can't work its magic. Look in System Preferences > Sharing > Firewall for the settings.



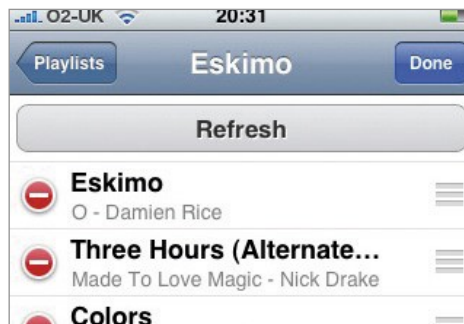
05 You can now control your *iTunes* application on your Mac using simply your iPhone or iPod touch! Just pick a track using your iPhone or iPod touch and it will start playing in *iTunes* on your Mac. You can play, pause, skip and shuffle at will.



06 Creating a Genius playlist in *iTunes* on your Mac is also possible using your iPhone or iPod touch and the *Remote* application. As a song is playing just tap the screen then the **Genius** button to create a playlist. If you don't like it hit **Refresh**; if you do like it, hit **Save** in *iTunes*.

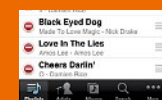


07 As you'd expect, you can also search your entire *iTunes* music library on your iPhone or iPod touch. Simply tap the **Search** button and begin typing to look for a certain song or artist. Once you have found what you are looking for, just tap its name to start playing the track.



08 You can even edit existing playlists using the *Remote* app by tapping the **Edit** button. You can change the song order by dragging tracks up and down the playlist order. You can also delete a song with a tap on the [Delete] button. It really is a great way or controlling your music without getting off the sofa! ●

TOOL SCHOOL



The toolbar at the bottom of *Remote* contains **Playlists**, **Artists**, **Albums** and **Search**. Access more options, like customising, by tapping **More**.

EXPERT TIP



If you've got more than one Mac or PC on your WiFi network at home, you can share the *iTunes* libraries they contain. In *iTunes* Preferences, turn on **Sharing** and then look in the **Sharing** section for connected computers.

23-25 OCTOBER 2008
OLYMPIA, LONDON

**A MULTI-PLATFORM
EVENT FEATURING:**

DESIGN & PRINT

PUBLISHING

PHOTOGRAPHY

AUDIO & VIDEO

MAC LIFESTYLE

MAC LIVE EXPO

LINUXEXPO LIVE

**COMPREHENSIVE
SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

NEW THINKING FOR CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS

This October will see the next generation of MacLive Expo - CreativePro Expo - a multi-platform event reaching across the entire design community, whatever your chosen platform.

This showcase of all the latest products and services in the creative industry will be a truly interactive experience designed to inspire everyone who attends. Both consumers and professionals alike will be driven to improve their skills and get the most out of all the creative disciplines.

Reaching out to a much broader audience, this combined approach will ensure that CreativePro Expo is the most comprehensive event of its kind to date.

**Creativepro
expo**
Thu 23rd - Sat 25th October '08
Olympia National Hall, London
www.creativepro-expo.co.uk

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:



AND



VISIT THE WEBSITE AND REGISTER FOR A TICKET TODAY!

www.creativepro-expo.co.uk

SUPPORTED BY:





Take control of your music by using some of the great features in *iTunes* to organise the library and select your favourite tracks.

Get more from iTunes

Exploring some useful ways to work with your music in iTunes and on your iPod

One thing about Apple's software and hardware offerings, including *iTunes* and the various flavours of iPod, is that everything is so well designed that it's really easy just to switch them on and go. In general on a Mac, for most of us, most of the time, the standard tools and settings simply work. But by digging a little deeper into many of these programs, it's possible to get a lot more flexibility and control.

iTunes is a very good case in point. In this tutorial, we're going to just scrape the surface with a few suggestions for using tools already built into the program, plus a couple of applications and sites that can add to your experience of managing and listening to music on your Mac or iPod.

New Genius button

Before you start, make sure you've got the latest version 8 of *iTunes* installed on

your Mac (see our review on page 85). Version 8 adds a new feature called Genius, which creates playlists for you based on a single song you've selected. It's a great feature and works surprisingly well for an automated process. You can, however, be even more selective with

"By digging a little deeper into many of these programs, it's possible to get a lot more flexibility"

your music pick and get *iTunes* to choose only your favourite songs.

Many people use *iTunes* and iPods for years without ever rating a song. What's the point of this function, and why on earth might it be useful? There are two very good reasons: to soup up your

Smart Playlists and to improve the automatically generated Party Shuffle. Adding your own ratings will enable you to get more from both of these features.

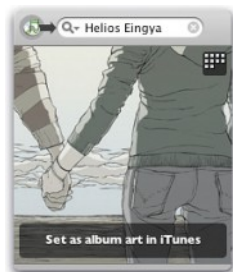
Smart Playlists

You'll find instructions on how to rate tracks on your iPod and in *iTunes*, and on how to make a new Smart Playlist, in the two walkthroughs accompanying this article. Of course, if you have a large music library, it's going to take ages to rate every single track. You could come up with a rough-and-ready Smart Playlist that singles out your most or least played tracks, or those that you usually skip when they start playing, and there are a few shareware programs that promise to automate the process. But any automatic list is going to leave a lot of room for error, so in the long run it makes sense to do this by hand, so to speak. It's also been really interesting and enjoyable ►

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple *iTunes* (v8, free, www.apple.com/itunes)
- Any iPod
- 20 minutes to read and, depending on the size of your music library, some hours of listening and rating your music!

QUICK TIP



Amazon Album Art Widget

This great Dashboard widget helps you find artwork for your iTunes music. Just open Dashboard and click on the small iTunes logo at top-left of the widget, and it will register the currently playing track and search Amazon. When it finds your artwork, just click on the image to set the artwork and you're done! www.widget-foundry.com/widgets/amazonart.htm

listening through our entire music library – that's just 30GB for us, but for some it's hundreds of gigabytes: good luck!

Smarter playlists

Rating can be the basis for some very useful Smart Playlists. In the step-by-step section, we've taken you through a very simple but handy one: a zero rated list that can help you prune your library. You've almost certainly got some songs in your library that you skip over every time you hear them starting. Why keep them? Your hard-drive or iPod space is precious – okay, it's also pretty plentiful, especially if you've got a 160GB iPod classic, but say you have an 8GB iPod touch or a 1GB iPod shuffle: well, then the picture's quite different. You'll want to get the most bang for your buck. So trimming the stuff you really don't listen to is a good idea.

You might make a Smart Playlist that selects only the tracks that you've rated four or five stars, or narrow that selection down even further to include only songs that you've never skipped, or to exclude songs that you haven't listened to in the past two months. Now we're getting focused! Or if you use your iPod to accompany an exercise program, you might find it useful to come up with a Smart Playlist of songs at a particular Beat Per Minute (BPM) rate – an article in



The latest iTunes 8: this release includes the brand new Genius Playlists feature and this new Grid View that displays album artwork.

"You've almost certainly got songs in your library that you skip over every time you hear them"

The New York Times (<http://tinyurl.com/2x9oam>) suggested 147-160 BPM for running, or 115-118 BPM for walking. (It's not a good idea, by the way, to run or do other particularly jerky, bumpy exercise with an iPod classic or any of the older hard drive-based iPods, though you're okay with a shuffle, touch, or nano, all of which use solid state flash memory.)

If you subscribe to a lot of podcasts, you could use a Smart Playlist to show all the episodes you've already listened to in one place, from across your various subscriptions. Or, to help with the mammoth task of rating all your music, you could set up a 'Not Yet Rated' Smart Playlist. And so on... It's worth investing

some time and playing around with Smart Playlist criteria, because you're sure to hone your lists with practice – and that'll make them ever more useful.

Party time!

Party Shuffle is a randomly generated selection of tracks from your music library. You can influence the selection by specifying the source that iTunes uses, whether that's a Playlist to which you've manually added tracks (by dragging and dropping chosen songs from your music library) or a Smart Playlist that you've set up. And you can choose to have Party Shuffle play your highest-rated tracks more often than others. So, with a bit of Smart Playlisting and Rating, you can easily improve the overall standard of your Party Shuffle.

Chances are that your music library contains some errors: misspelled artist or album names, inconsistent attribution of genres, missing information. *BeaTunes* (www.beatunes.com: \$24.95) is a very

COVERSUTRA

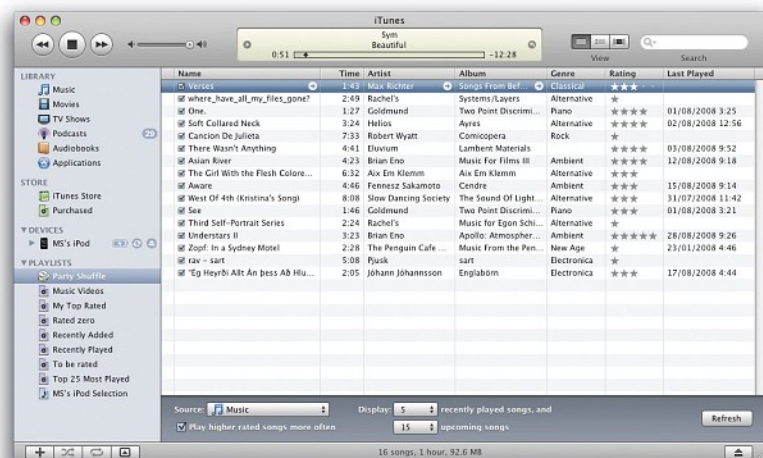
There are many different iTunes controllers available. *CoverSutra* (<http://sophistication.de>) probably isn't the best known, but we've tried a bunch of them and this is the one we've settled on. The most important feature is its system-wide keyboard shortcuts – no matter what program you happen to be using, when you tap [fn]+[F6] (or just [F6] if you're using an external keyboard), it calls up *CoverSutra's* Player Controls window, from which you can do just about anything, from rating the current track to switching on Shuffle or skipping backwards or forwards in the current playlist. You can actually do any

one of these things from an independent keyboard shortcut, as you can program a range of tasks with shortcuts of your choice. For instance, you can set things up so that when you press ⌘+[1]-[5], *CoverSutra* sets the star rating for the current track accordingly (and ⌘+[5] zero-rates the track, which dooms it to deletion when you get around to it...).

Hit ⌘+⌘+[spacebar] and a search bar, a shinier sibling to Spotlight, drops down from the *CoverSutra* menu bar icon and delivers search results as you type – use the arrow keys to navigate through these and you have complete keyboard control of your tunes.



CoverSutra floats track info and album cover artwork on your Desktop, in your choice of three styles.



Party Shuffle's a great way to keep the tunes coming, generating unexpected mixes of songs and styles from your music collection.

STEP BY STEP How to rate your songs

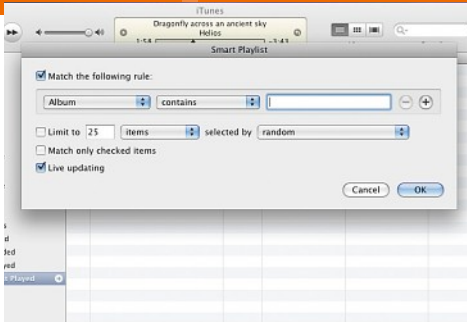
01 Rating a song in *iTunes* couldn't be easier. If it's not already displayed (it is by default, but might have been switched off), enable the Rating column by clicking **View** and **View Options**, or hitting [⌘]+[J], and then click in the **Rating** box.



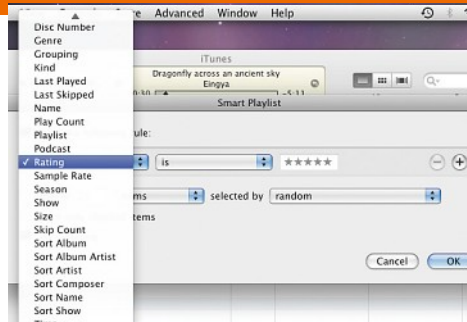
02 To rate a track in *iTunes*, simply click in the star you think the song deserves – that's all there is to it. What's harder is being consistent across different tracks or kinds of music, and in rating tracks from day to day. Right now this sounds like a 5, but will it fall to a 3 tomorrow?



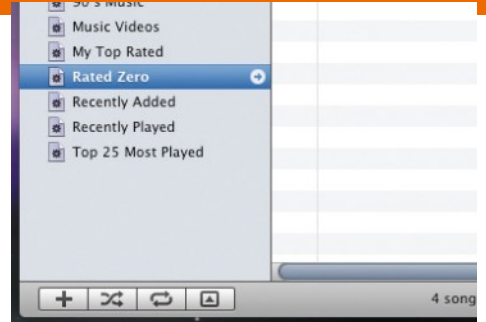
03 On a scroll-wheel iPod, press the centre button – four clicks gets you to Rating, then turn the scrollwheel to increase or reduce. On an iPhone or iPod touch, change to Album view by clicking the symbol at the top-right of the album cover view and you'll see the rating bar under the track details. Tap or drag to set the number of stars.

STEP BY STEP How to use Smart Playlists

01 To add a new Smart Playlist, you can either click on **File** and then **New Smart Playlist...** or tap [⌘]+[⌘]+[N]. Either route brings up a new window from which you can then set the terms of your Playlist. For this demonstration, we'll make a basic culling list.

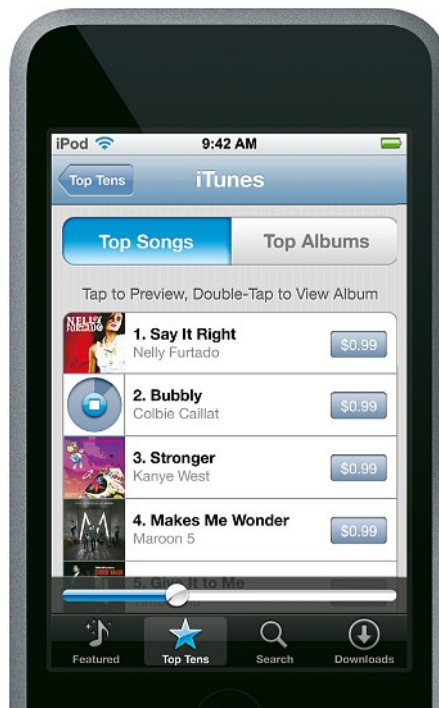


02 The pull-down list on the left enables you to select from various aspects of your music – from bit rate and beats per minute to year of publication. You can then specify criteria to be tested for: Does the Artist Name include 'Helios'? Is the Sample Rate less than 36,000Hz? Or, for the purposes of our demonstration, is the rating zero stars?



03 You can add any number of criteria to your Smart Playlist, adding new lines by clicking on the + symbol. When you're done, your new Smart Playlist will appear in the left pane of the *iTunes* window. This zero rated list is a handy way of pruning your library – tracks you zero rate on your iPod will also be added to the list for easy deletion.

useful janitor for your *iTunes* library. The program started life as a BPM detection tool for DJs, but it's evolved into an excellent all-round manager. When you first run it, *BeaTunes* 'inspects' your library and presents you with a list of issues, ranging from different versions of album titles to different release dates and offers solutions to each problem, so that, with one click, you can change the album name or date of all the effected songs. The screenshot of *BeaTunes* shows some other information the program can work out for you, including tracks' BPM and 'Color': each song's colour is derived from what *BeaTunes*' author describes. Check out the *iTunes* Top Tens to see what other people are buying and get recommendations on songs you might like.



as a 'statistical profile' of the track, and gives you an idea of what the song sounds like. This is useful, again, in putting together Playlists – the idea is that songs of a similar colour will sound similar, so you might want to put together a playlist of 'red' songs, or else mix it up by contrasting colours. It's an interesting idea, and certainly can present some good mixes of songs.

A full analysis of your library takes some time – our 30GB took most of two days to complete. To tell the truth, though a DJ could probably save a lot of time with *BeaTunes*'s full analysis, for the average user it's probably overkill – but the Inspection tool is just great for cleaning up your library and keeping it in good order.

QUICK TIP**Find duplicate files**

Click on **View** and then **Show Duplicates** to see a list of files appearing more than once in your *iTunes* library. It's not foolproof, but helps trim those compilations that repeat all the greatest hits of the 70s!

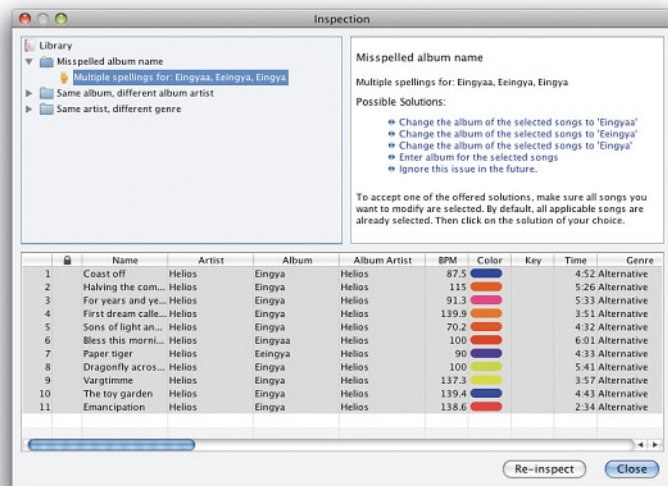
QUICK TIP



Visual Music

iTunes has Visualizers built-in – hit **⌘+V** while a track is playing to switch on whichever is currently selected, or click on **View** and **Turn on Visualizer**. You can select the style under **View** and then **Visualizer**.

BeaTunes Inspector will help you squirrel out all kinds of errors and inconsistencies in your iTunes library, so you can keep it in order.

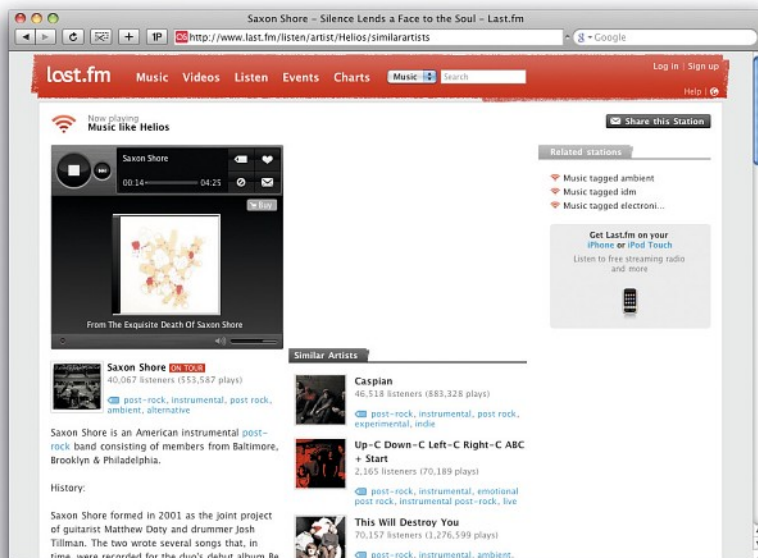


And the Recommendations that *BeaTunes* offers for each track in your library are a good way to discover new artists and tunes.

Discover new music with Last.fm

The last thing we're going to mention is another good way to discover new music. It's an aspect of the social music site, Last.fm (www.last.fm). If you're new to Last.fm, the idea is that when you visit the site, you can make your own radio station by entering the name of an artist and clicking search. You'll then be able to listen to a stream of music by that artist and others producing similar music, so you'll pick up lots of suggestions for artists you might like to explore, and very often you'll discover people you've never heard of before.

It's like a very intimate radio show, where you get to set the tone and choose the tempo – and to some extent



Last.fm is a great way to listen to your favourite tracks on any internet-connected Mac, without needing to stream your own library.

even the playlist, because you can skip over songs you don't like. There's an official Last.fm client and a few other options, too, so you don't have to connect to the site through your browser, but can have a client running in the background while you continue to work in other applications.

When you install the Last.fm software, it starts to upload to your Last.fm account a list of all the music you play in iTunes or on your iPod – which is known as 'scrobbling'. Your scrobbled music listening habits and preferences are then matched to your profile, which enables Last.fm to make recommendations of music that you might enjoy. Pandora (www.pandora.com) is a similar idea, based on the Music Genome Project, but

unfortunately it's not available in the UK because of licensing restrictions. When you scrobble a track, it shows up immediately on your Last.fm page.

The social aspect of the site starts to come into play when you take a look at the music that other people who're listening to the same artist might like. You pretty quickly work your way into a web of recommendations and a rich sea of new music. And then, like other social

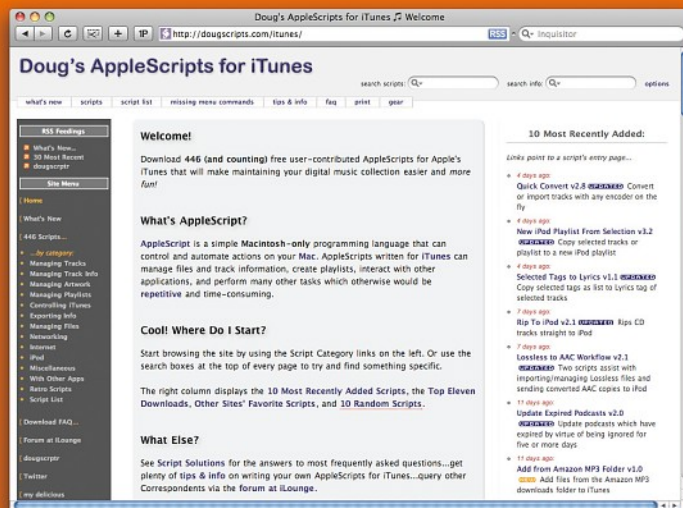
“Last.fm is like a very intimate radio show, where you get to set the tone and choose the tempo”

DOUG'S APPLESCRIPTS FOR iTunes

Doug Adams curates a collection of (at last count) 446 free AppleScripts for use with iTunes. The site started off as a collection of scripts for SoundJam, the program from which iTunes was born (the first version of iTunes appeared in January 2001, about a year after Apple bought the rights to SoundJam), and it's kept up with new technology in subsequent versions of iTunes.

Scripts can be used to automate all kinds of processes, from searching for dead tracks (those with a '!' next to their names) to converting tracks in your library from one format to another, or exporting information about your library in various formats.

The scripts are user-contributed and there's simple instructions on how to get started on writing your own.



sites such as Facebook, you can make 'Friends' on the site, and Last.fm will show you how similar your music tastes are on the basis of all the music you've each scrobbled. The official Last.fm software is pretty universally held to be bloated, but there are alternatives around, many of them hosted on Last.fm's community extras site, <http://build.last.fm>. Built-in scrobbling is another reason that *CoverSutra* makes such a great iTunes controller.

We've mentioned just a few ways to work with your music collections – they're a solid basis for digging deeper, but of course there's much more you can do. The iPod has revolutionised the way we listen to music, and perhaps its greatest feature is its simplicity and the intelligence of its design. It's well worth taking some time to get to know its less obvious features, though, as well as those of its best pal, iTunes.

Ian Tromp

Available from :



www.amazon.co.uk



www.apple.com/ukstore



www.atcomputers.co.uk



www.play.com



www.ghc.co.uk

Solutions Inc - Bournemouth
78 Old Christchurch Rd
0870 3898610

Solutions Inc - Brighton
12-13 Brighton Pl
0870 3898610

Western Computer - Bristol
Temple Gate
01179 225 661

Western Computer - Cheltenham
Beechwood Shopping Ctr
01242 234700

Scotsys - Glasgow
164 Great Western Rd
0845 606 2641

Albion Computers - London
112 The Strand
0207 212 9090

Apple Store - Birmingham
West Bullring Shopping Ctr
0121 260 1900

Apple Store - London
235 Regent St
020 7153 9000

Apple Store - Manchester
Arndale Ctr
0161 216 4570

Cancom - Brighton
110 Queens Rd
01273 748 083

Solutions Inc - Brighton & Hove
255 Old Shoreham Rd
0870 3898610

Cancom - Cambridge
5 Clifton Ct
01223 247111

Scotsys - Edinburgh
95-97 Nicolson St
0845 606 2641

Square Group Ltd - London
78 New Oxford St
020 7692 9990

GBM - Manchester
One Piccadilly Gardens
0161 605 3838

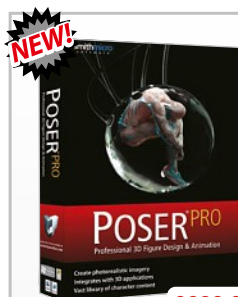
Apple Store - Kent
Bluewater Shopping Ctr
01322 640100

Apple Store - London
Brent Cross Shopping Ctr
0208 359 1050

Apple Store - Manchester
Trafford Ctr
0161 240 1000

Apple Store - Sheffield
Meadowhall Shopping Ctr
0114 212 1000

The Ultimate Graphics Software Solutions from Smith Micro

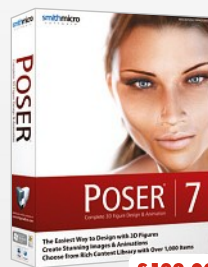


£299.95
RRP INC VAT

Poser Pro Professional 3D Figure Design & Animation

Poser Pro, the 3D character animation and content solution for professional artists and production environments, offers integration of fully rigged, textured and animated Poser characters into 3ds Max, Maya and CINEMA 4D. With COLLADA import/export, create Poser content to use in production pipelines and graphics tools. Poser Pro offers 64-bit render engine and a Network Rendering Queue, to save design time and production resources. By providing access to a market of hundreds of ready to use, studio quality, pre-rigged and textured figures plus thousands of diverse props, Poser Pro is a critical tool for adding character content to any production project.

- Editing tools: complete control over poser figure
- Memory Dots: easily save a pose, UI or camera settings
- Morph Tools: create and combine morph targets
- Room-Based Interface: Pose, Material, Face, Hair, Cloth
- Walk Designer: easily apply diverse walk and run styles
- Rich Content Library
- Easy to use Animation Controls
- 3D Lighting

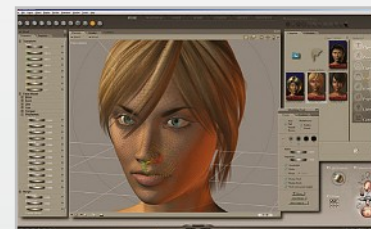


£139.00
RRP INC VAT

Poser 7 Complete 3D Figure Design & Animation

Easily design, pose and animate your dream figure in 3D - Poser's unique interface unlocks the secrets of working with the human form. Poser is the only complete figure design and animation solution with over 250,000 registered users worldwide. Poser contains all the tools you need to dress figures, style hair and add accessories. Graphic artist, illustrators, fine artist, story-board designers and many other creative professionals use Poser to create anything from photorealistic content to cartoon images, illustrations to modern art. Make figures walk, dance or talk to create animations for Flash content or movies.

- Talk Designer: automated lip syncing
- Improved rendering and increased performance
- HDRI support for Image Based Lighting (IBL) and textures
- Morph target creation: shape body, face and clothing
- Multiple undo and redo
- Non-linear animation
- Universal poses: one pose works on many figures
- Dynamic cloth and hair
- Rich content library
- Walk Designer: easily apply diverse walk and run styles
- Easy to use animation controls



£649.95
RRP INC VAT

Shade 8 Pro

All-in-one 3D graphics suite for architects, interior product and product designers. Use advanced modeling tools to visualize designs, network render photorealistic imagery over unlimited number of nodes.



£169.95
RRP INC VAT

Anime Studio 5 Pro

Anime Studio 5 Pro is perfect for professionals looking for a more efficient alternative to tedious frame-by-frame detailing when creating quality animations!



£229.98
RRP INC VAT

Manga Studio EX

The professional solution for manga and comic artists! Focused on realism, productivity and inter-operability, Manga Studio EX is perfect for professionals looking for efficiency and flexibility in the design process.



£169.99
RRP INC VAT

Shade 8 Standard

All-in-one 3D graphics suite for designers and graphic artists now supports Intel Macs! Use intuitive Bezier modeling tools, mesh editing to visualize designs. Create photorealistic rendering or QuickTime VR.



£34.99
RRP INC VAT

Anime Studio 5

Bring your imagination to life! Anime Studio 5 is your complete animation program for creating 2D movies, cartoons, anime and cut out animations.



£39.99
RRP INC VAT

Manga Studio Debut

You can easily create professional-quality comics, manga and illustrations from start to finish with the world's number one manga software - Manga Studio 3.0 Debut!

Master iChat in Mac OS X



Get to grips to with the features that make iChat great

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.4 or later
- Some features require Mac OS X 10.5

Although many instant messengers work on a Mac, none does as good a job as *iChat*. We suspect most of our readers have used the app, so we're going to show you some of the cooler features.

Most of the features here exist in the Tiger version of iChat, but some are Leopard only, like being able to record video chats, add a funny background and share screens. Either way, *iChat* is still a versatile program. James Ellerbeck



Share screens

iChat's handy screen-sharing feature makes collaborating easy. It's a simple one-button command which, once activated, gives both parties involved in the video chat control over the other person's Desktop. If you are work colleagues, it's a great way of sharing files and documents quickly and easily.



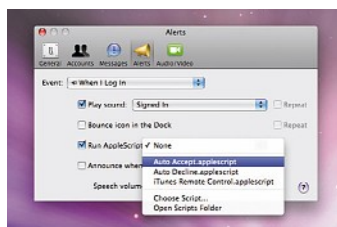
Create an animated icon

To go one step further than just grabbing a GIF animation from the web, why not make your own? In *Photo Booth* (part of Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard), select the four-frame option. Make different faces in each frame. When the four frames show, select the **Buddy Picture** option to make the GIF your icon.



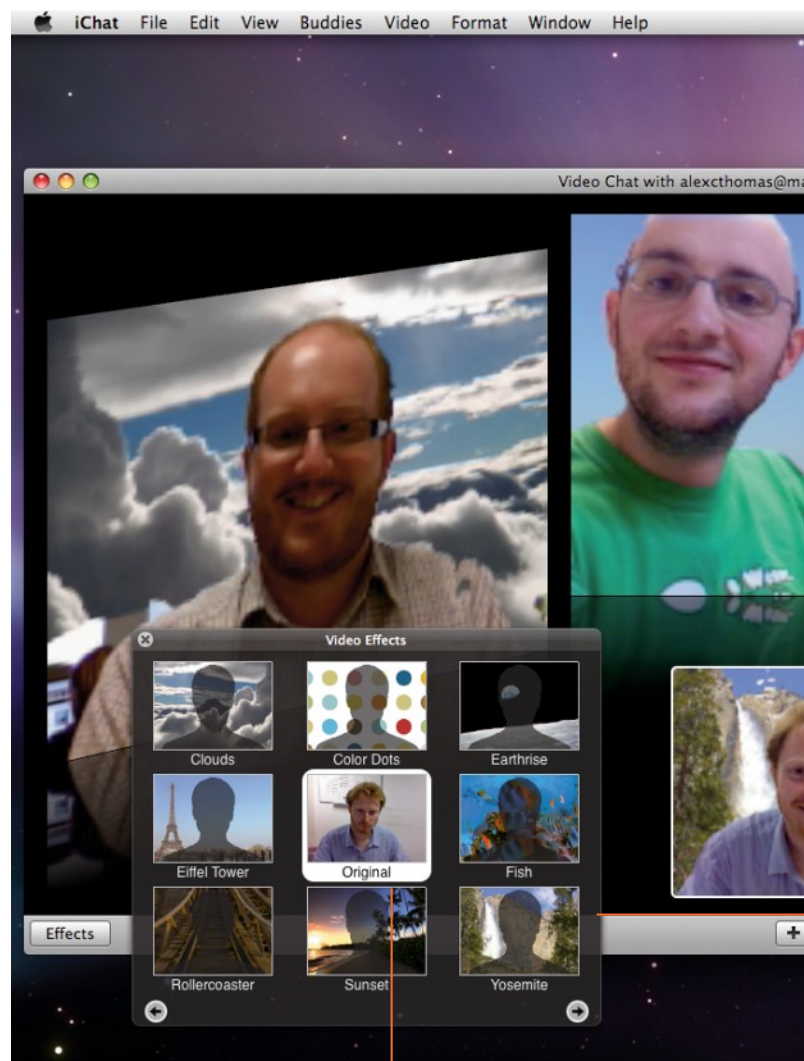
Animated icon

You can have an animated icon as your identity marker in *iChat*. Just find one from any of the online sources, like www.gifanimations.com or www.gifs.net and add it to your profile in the same way you would a photo. Then choose *iChat* > Preferences > General and turn on **Animate buddy pictures**.



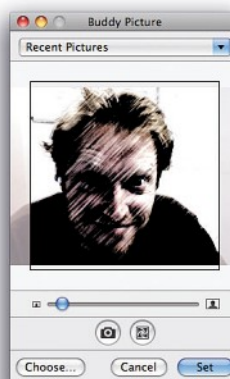
Using iChat for surveillance

You need two Macs for this. Set up a second Mac with a webcam and a view you want to see. On the remote Mac, choose *iChat* > Preferences > Alerts and turn on **Run AppleScript**. From the adjoining menu choose **Auto Accept**. Now *iChat* on that Mac will accept invites to video chat straight away. Keep *iChat* open and invite the remote Mac to a chat.



Chat effects

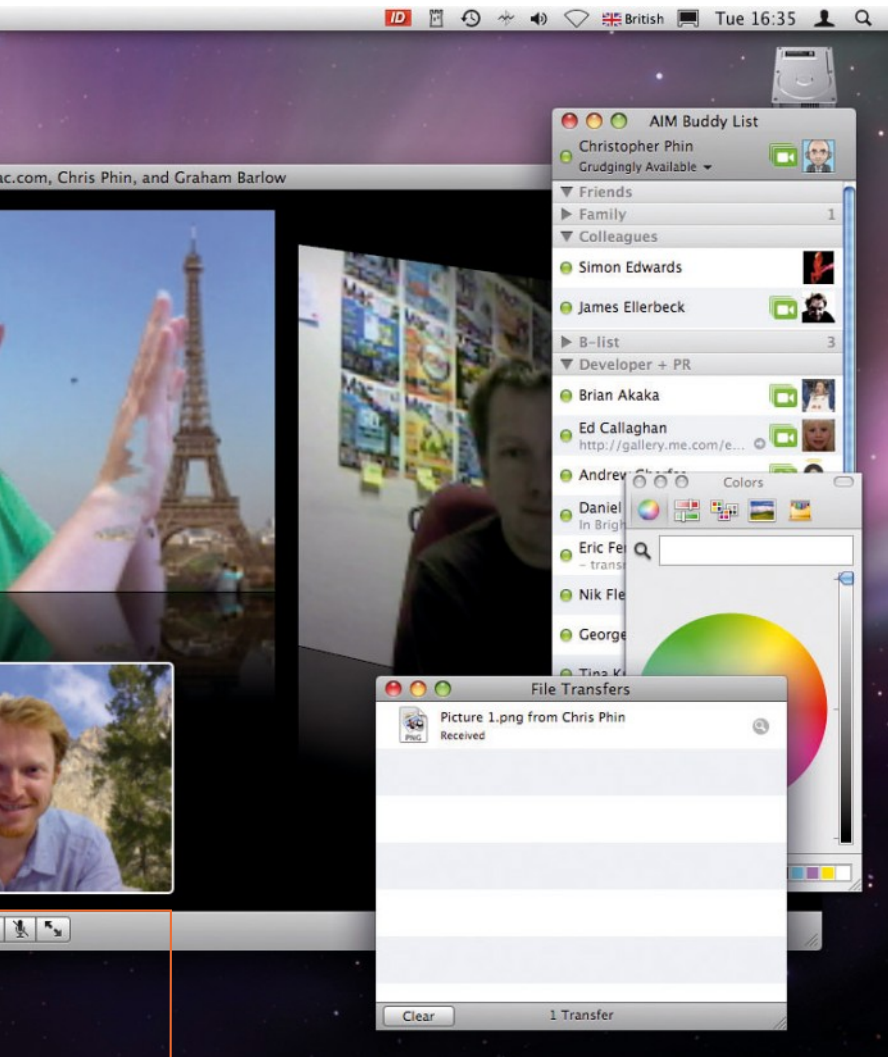
You can add a bit of sparkle to your video chats by using the **Effects** palette. With your mugshot on *iChat* using a webcam or *iSight* you simply select an effect and then have a bit of fun with the person at the other end of the chat session. There's usually a slider bar to alter effect levels.





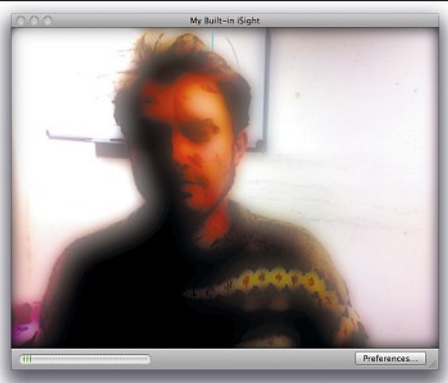
Displaying a file

When video-chatting you can display files to the person or people you are chatting with, by just dragging the file into the window. These can be slideshows, Keynote presentations or video. If no video chat is underway, choose **Share a File in iChat Theater**. When *iChat* asks you to select a buddy, click the target recipient.



Video effects 1

Not only can you add effects to your buddy picture in *iChat*, but you can also apply effects to your whole video while you're chatting. Go to *iChat* Preferences > Audio > Video. Press $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{[E]}$ (or Video > Show Video Effects). The effects box will appear just like it does when using it in *Photo Booth*.



Video effects 2

If you have a fast enough Mac and internet connection, you can replace the background behind you with a range of video loops such as the waterfall above. Press $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{[E]}$ (or Video > Show Video Effects) and go to the second page. Just select the background you want and follow the instructions. It helps to have a plain background behind you to start with.



Format your text

You can change the appearance of your chat bubbles. For example, you can make your text bold or italic in the usual way, but you can also change the font's colour by choosing Format > Show colours, or Format > Show font. Both summon the standard Mac OS X colour or font palettes.



Record chat history

Text chats are automatically logged in Mac OS X, but you can also save audio and video chats. Under the **Video** tab in the *iChat* menu, just select **Record Chat**. Audio files are saved as AAC files, and video chat files as MPEG-4. A red dot appears in the top right-hand corner of the screen when recording.

Extend a wireless network

Want to browse from the basement or gamble from the garden? We show you how it's done

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Two or more wireless routers that support WDS, preferably the same model from the same manufacturer

Before WiFi – or, as Apple calls it, AirPort – became widespread, we usually had a space in a study where we'd go 'to be on the internet'. Now, though, a wireless router is enough to provide at least some web connection anywhere you choose to pick up a laptop or iPod touch. But despite the advances made since the original 802.11 implementation, you might find that a single access point simply can't provide enough cover to let you connect everywhere in your home.

The best solution from a technical perspective is to run Ethernet cabling throughout your house, but for many that's not practical. There is, however, a network of cabling running all over your house: it supplies power. Plug special boxes into your wall sockets and you can use this cabling to send data around your home or office.

But wireless networking is still the most convenient way to get a network

"Wireless networking is still the most convenient way to get a network connection to a handful of computers"

connection to a handful of computers, especially if laptops are involved. And the good news is that there's a way to extend the range of a single network using more than one Base Station and, in theory at least, that equipment from different manufacturers can tie in together to create this mesh of WiFi hotspots. There's quite a lot of bad news to counter that, though. Technically-speaking, we're going to be using WDS (Wireless Distribution System) to tie together two AirPort Extreme Base Stations, but despite being a technology implemented by many manufacturers, it's not a standard defined by the Wi-Fi Alliance. Incompatibilities between how different manufacturers – and sometimes even between different models from the same manufacturer – implement WDS mean that it can be a nightmare to try to get working. The problem is only compounded when trying to implement a

security policy. While it should be possible to get a WDS network set up using WEP, this outdated security protocol is essentially useless these days. The modern WPA flavours are more secure, but they're much less widely supported. The bottom line: we recommend only using Base Stations from the same manufacturer – preferably the same model, even – and if you run into problems start with a network that has no security policy implemented, then, when you're sure it's working, layer on WEP and then switch to WPA.

Finally, note that because data is being retransmitted from one Base Station to another, you'll experience a drop in bandwidth unless you're connected to the main node. If you use relay stations – see step three, right – each jump will further throttle available bandwidth; more than two jumps is probably inadvisable.

Because we're using two 802.11n Apple AirPort Extreme Base Stations, we can actually extend the range of the network very simply during the initial set-up of a second Base Station, so we'll show you that immediately below. The lion's share of this tutorial, though, explains how to do it by hand, giving you more control over how your Base Stations interact, and enabling you to tie in other manufacturers' equipment.

Christopher Phin

In theory, any router that supports WDS should work, but you'll get better results using kit from one manufacturer.



STEP BY STEP The easy way, using two 802.11n AirPort Extreme Base Stations

AirPort Utility – Base Station 32d615

AirPort Extreme can share your Internet connection and USB devices on your network.

AirPort Extreme Name: Extender AirPort Extreme

Enter a password to protect the settings of this AirPort Extreme.

AirPort Extreme Password: *****

Verify Password: *****

☒ Remember this password in my keychain

☐ Use a different password to secure disks

01 Assuming you already have one AirPort Base Station set up, plug in your second, launch **AirPort Utility** and select the unconfigured unit from the list; you'll be prompted to switch to its own network to configure it. Name the Base Station and set a password. This password is just to let you configure the unit; it's not a network password.

AirPort Utility – Network Setup

Please select what you want to do with AirPort Extreme.

☐ I want to replace an existing base station or wireless router with AirPort Extreme

☒ I want AirPort Extreme to wirelessly join my current network

☐ I want to connect AirPort Extreme to my network using Ethernet to extend my current network or create a second network

02 Select **I have a wireless network and want to add AirPort Extreme or replace an existing device on my network** and then, from the next screen, pick **I want AirPort Extreme to wirelessly join my current network**. You'll then be prompted to enter the details of the existing network that you want this new Base Station to join.

AirPort Utility – Network Setup

Choose the wireless network you would like AirPort Extreme to use. If you don't see your network, click the menu to try again. If you still don't see your network, make sure it is plugged in.

Network Name: MacFormat

Wireless Security: WPA/WPA2 Personal

Wireless Password: *****

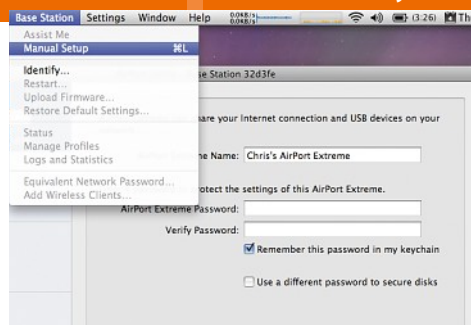
Verify Password: *****

If you want to extend the range of this network and allow clients to join it wirelessly or using Ethernet, select the checkbox below.

☒ Extend the range of this network
This might affect overall network performance.

03 Select the existing network from the drop-down menu – or enter it manually if you have hidden the SSID of the original router – and then confirm that the automatically-detected security type is correct. Enter the password key for the original router-created network and check the **Extend the range of this network** box. ●

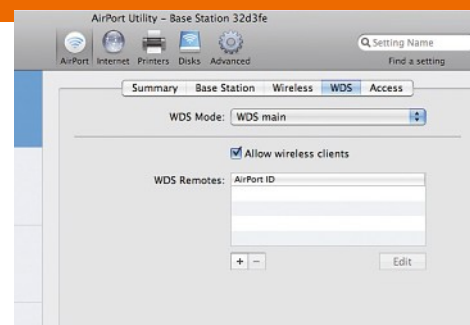
STEP BY STEP The manual way of extending your wireless network



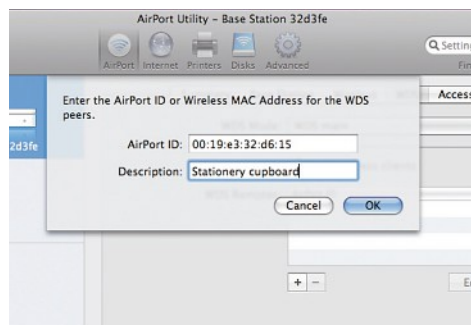
01 We're going to set up both the main and remote Base Stations; your setup may make use of either or both 'ends', so we want to make sure you know how to do each one. Plug in the first Base Station, launch **AirPort Utility**, select it from the list at the left then immediately press **⌘+[L]** to switch to **Manual Setup**.



02 Set up the basic settings such as the name and password for the Base Station (refer to the manual if you don't know how to do this), then click on the **AirPort** tab then the **Wireless** tab within that section. From the **Wireless Mode** menu, select **Participate in a WDS network**. This will cause a new tab to appear after the **Wireless** tab, called **WDS**.



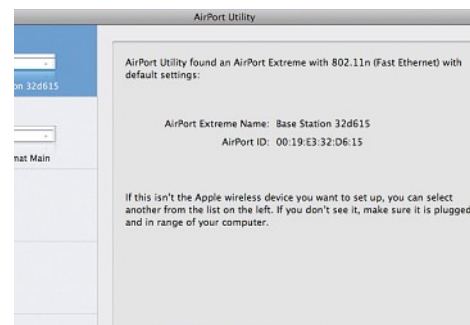
03 Click on the **WDS** tab, then from the **WDS Mode** menu, select **WDS main**. There are three types of WDS devices. If you have only two, one will be main and the other remote. If you have three or more, the ones in the 'middle' will be relay stations. Tick the **Allow wireless clients** box so computers that see this station can connect.



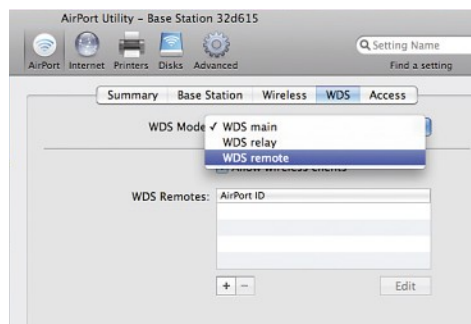
04 Tell the main WDS station which physical device will be connecting to it to extend the network. To do this, you need to know the MAC address of the remote (or relay) stations; look on the underside of the Base Station for the AirPort ID. Click the **+** button in the **WDS Remotes** section and add the wireless MAC address.



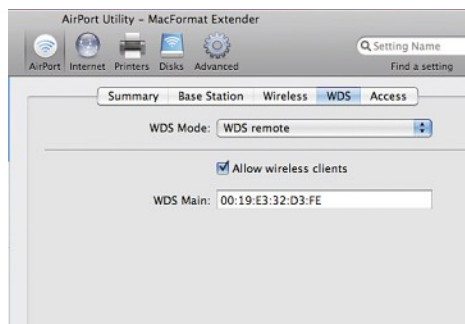
05 Switch back to the **Wireless** tab, name the network and then pick a channel. All participating stations have to be on the same channel; if performance drops, there may be interference on that channel, so try alternatives. Pick security settings, but remember the caveats we pointed out in the intro.



06 Now start setting up the remote or replay station. Plug it in then select it from the list in **AirPort Utility**. Again, don't click the **Continue** button, but choose **Manual Setup**, either by selecting **Manual Setup** from the **Base Station** menu, by clicking the **Manual Setup** button at the bottom left of the window, or by hitting **⌘+[L]**.



07 Click **AirPort** then select the **Wireless** tab. Choose **Participate in a WDS network** from the **Wireless Mode** pop-up and, before you switch to the **WDS** tab, pick the same channel and security settings as the main station that you set up in step five. Next, click the **WDS** tab and select **WDS remote** from the **WDS Mode** drop-down menu.



08 Now you're prompted to enter the MAC address of the main station. Remember, this can be found on the underside of the Base Station itself, possibly listed as the AirPort ID; we'd recommend against using **AirPort Utility** to discover the MAC addresses as it's inconvenient to interrupt the setup process for one unit to check on another. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



While most routers are configured using web pages that they themselves hold, Apple's routers use a little software tool called **AirPort Utility**. It runs on both Mac and PC, though.

EXPERT TIP



Remember to always ensure your firmware is up to date. Some Netgear routers, for example, have had recent firmware upgrades that enable WDS even though it wasn't originally a feature.

Create keyboard shortcuts

Stay glued to the keyboard by using Spark, a brilliant and free shortcut-keys manager

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Spark 3 – on the disc
- Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later
- 30 minutes of your time



You can find Spark 3 on this issue's disc.

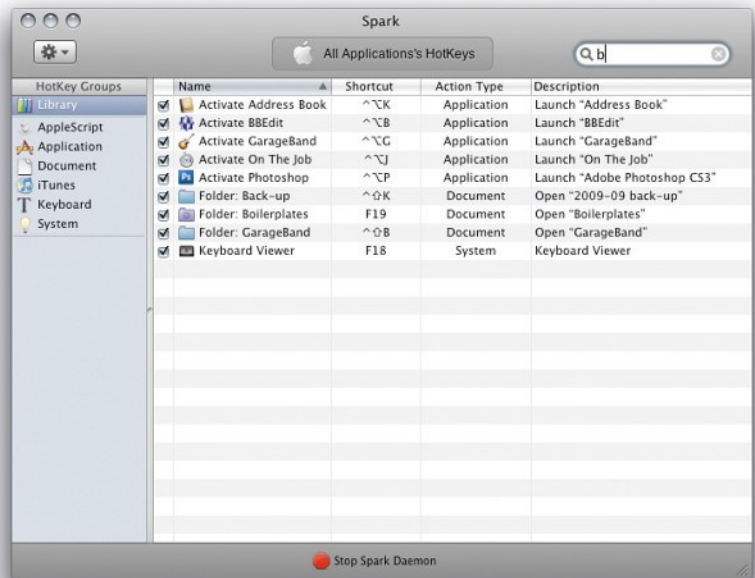
Arguments rage regarding the efficiency of keyboards versus mice, but if your hands are on the keyboard, it makes sense to keep them there. Even the most speedy of mouse users can't access dozens of apps, folders, *iTunes* commands and system settings in an instant, no matter how many shortcuts they pack into the Dock.

Spark is a hot-keys manager, enabling you to create system-wide shortcuts for launching apps, *AppleScripts*, documents and folders, and for accessing *iTunes* commands and system functions such as **Sleep**, **Switch To...** and **Log Out**. Spend a half-hour setting shortcuts up, and your Mac experience will become

"Spark is a hot-keys manager, enabling you to create system-wide shortcuts to launch apps and documents"

an easier one. (For example, instead of $\text{⌘}+\text{tab}$ bing a bunch of times to switch apps, use your Spark shortcut to bring it immediately to the front.) Once your shortcuts are programmed in, a Spark-less Mac will feel naked by comparison.

In the walkthroughs, we show how to work with **Application** and **Document** hot-keys, but with Spark's wealth of options, we're merely scratching the



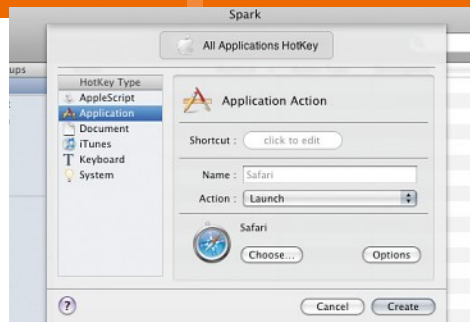
When you've dozens of hot-keys defined, use Spark's search field to filter them. The options are endless with Spark.

surface – there are many more things you can try. For example, **Application** hot-keys aren't restricted to launching applications – there are also options for **Quit**, **Launch/Quit** toggles, hiding and force-quitting. Note that you can define multiple hot-keys for one application (so, where we've used $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{[S]}$ to launch *Safari*, you could create a second shortcut where $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{[S]}$ quits it).

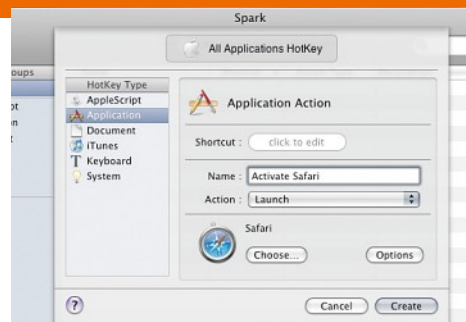
Spark includes *iTunes* actions, so you can define shortcuts for Play/Pause, track and volume control, playing specific playlists and rating the current track, complete with temporary info window.

The best way to get the most from Spark is to play. If you're concerned about wrecking your settings, Spark's **File** menu includes backup and revert menu items. **Craig Grannell**

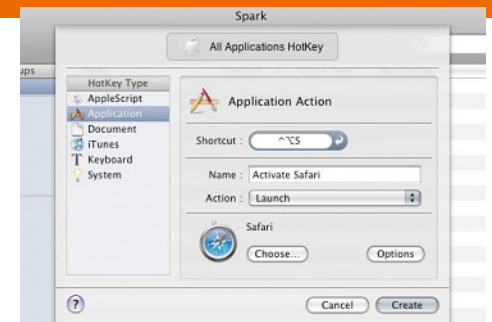
STEP BY STEP Creating Application hot-keys



01 Launch Spark and select **Applications** from the **Actions** menu at the top-left of the window (alternatively, go to **File > New HotKey > Application**, or press $\text{⌘}+\text{[2]}$). A sheet will be displayed, providing the various options for defining a hot-key. Click **Choose**, navigate to your chosen application (such as *Safari*) and click **Open**.

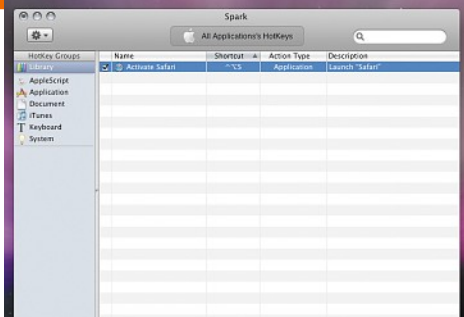


02 The application's name and icon should now be visible in the sheet. The default **Action** setting is **Launch** – leave that be for now. Next, rename the shortcut, which will initially show the application's name. As you can create multiple shortcuts for each application, you need something more descriptive, like **Activate [application name]**.

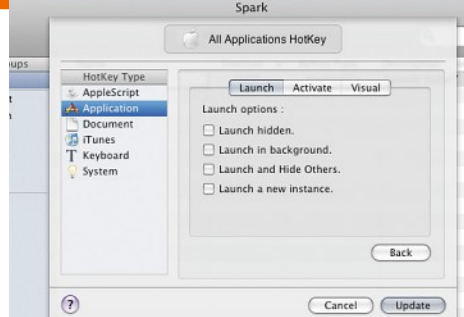


03 Next, decide on a shortcut for your action. It's good to plan in advance and create a system to use throughout Spark, avoiding common shortcuts from other applications. Here, we've used $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{[a letter]}$, with the letter relating to the target application ('S' for *Safari*).

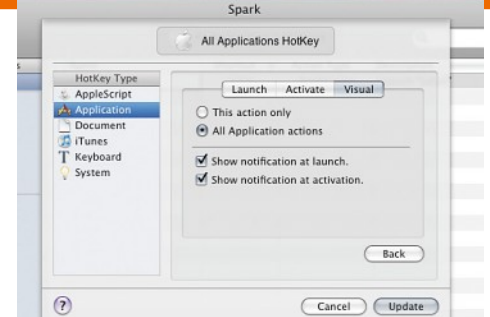
STEP BY STEP Creating Application hot-keys... continued



04 Click **Create** and the action will be displayed in *Spark's* library. The action can be toggled by checking/unchecking the box next to the action's name. Assuming the *Spark* Daemon is running (if it is, you'll see **Stop Spark Daemon** at the foot of *Spark's* window; if not, click **Start Spark Daemon**), your shortcut should now work system-wide.

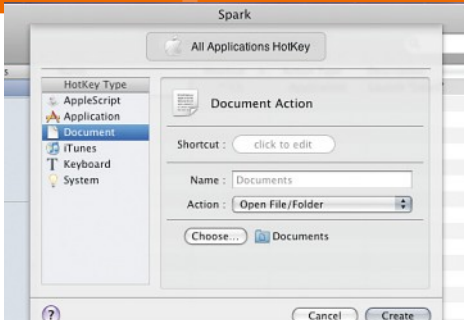


05 A shortcut can be edited by double-clicking its entry in *Spark's* library, which reveals the sheet first shown in step 2. Click **Options** and you're provided with additional launch configuration settings. Under **Launch**, you can set your application to launch hidden or in the background, or to hide other applications when it launches.

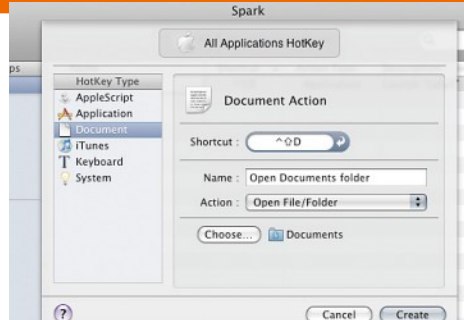


06 The **Activate** section enables you to define what happens when you use the shortcut on an already running app, optionally bringing all windows or just the front window forwards. Under **Visual**, check both **Show** options to provide visual notifications on launch or activation of your app. Click **Update** to update your settings.

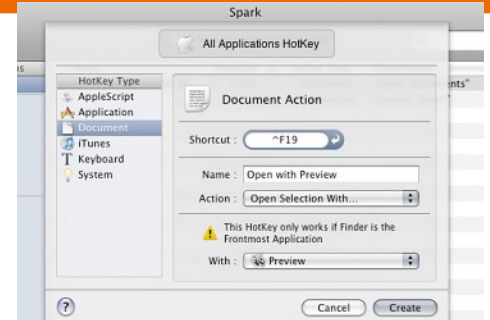
STEP BY STEP Defining hot-keys for documents and folders



01 For instant access to a file or folder, create a **Document** hot-key. Select **Document** from the **Actions** menu at the top-left of the window (alternatively: File > New HotKey > Document, or ⌘+[3]) and use the **Choose** button to select your folder. We've chosen **Documents** from our **Home** folder.

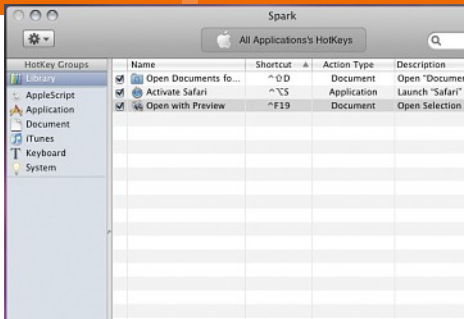


02 Rename the shortcut to something descriptive (to make searches easier when you've many shortcuts). Next, define a shortcut, using a different convention to that for applications – here, we've used ⌘+[D] (using 'D' for **Documents**). Click **Create** and the shortcut appears in *Spark's* library, ready for immediate use.

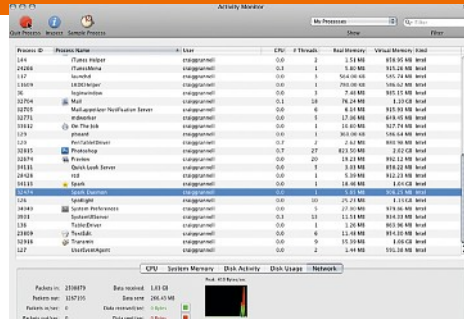


03 If you regularly download files you want to open in a certain app, *Spark* can help. Create another document shortcut, but set **Action** to **Open Selection With....** Choose an app from the **With** menu, name the hot-key and define a shortcut. When *Finder* is front-most, selected items will open in your chosen app when your shortcut is invoked.

STEP BY STEP Rebooting Spark



01 Very occasionally (in our experience to date, twice in about six months), *Spark 3's* shortcuts stop working, and this is because *Spark* Daemon – the background process that enables the shortcuts – has locked up. If this happens to you, launch the *Spark* application, click **Stop Spark Daemon** and then **Start Spark Daemon**.



02 In the unlikely event that *Spark* itself can't be accessed, open *Activity Monitor* (from your **Utilities** folder) and select **Spark** and **Spark Daemon** in turn (which will be red if locked up), and click the **Quit Process** button, then **Quit** or **Force Quit**. Relaunch *Spark* and all should be well again.

TOOL SCHOOL



Go to **Spark > Preferences** and select the **General** section. Within this window, check the option that says: **Start Spark Daemon at login**. That way, your shortcuts will be active as soon as your Mac starts!

EXPERT TIP



Create a **System** hot-key (⌘+[6]) and select **Keyboard Viewer** from the **Action** menu. Define a shortcut and you now have single-click access to **Keyboard Viewer**.

Enhance your Finder

Get Finder windows under control with a handy window sets management application

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Some folders in *Finder*
- Simple WindowSets* (on the disc)
- OS X 10.3.9 or later



You'll find
Simple WindowSets
on this issue's disc.

Apple's Spotlight's technology is great for quickly finding items on your hard drives, but it's no use for file management. And although Apple would have you believe that Spotlight makes file management redundant, most Mac users take umbrage at that suggestion, happily (or, in some cases, grumpily) filing away items in various folders on their hard drives.

To do this, you need to work with *Finder*. When you're working on projects, chances are you have a bunch of *Finder* windows open all over your Desktop, in order to access the files you've merrily archived. When you want to switch to a different project, you need to close all your windows and open new ones. And then, of course, *Finder* will decide it doesn't like you being all organised, so it will either freeze or crash, then it will

have to be restarted, and a totally different window setup will then be on-screen, thereby leading to wailing and gnashing of teeth.

But here's the thing: it doesn't have to be this way. By getting to grips with *Simple WindowSets*, you can rapidly create sets of *Finder* windows that are then subsequently available system-wide via the menu bar. It's one of those timesaving features that you always wish Apple would add itself, and after you install and start using *Simple WindowSets*,

"After you install and start using Simple WindowSets, you'll wonder how you ever survived without it"

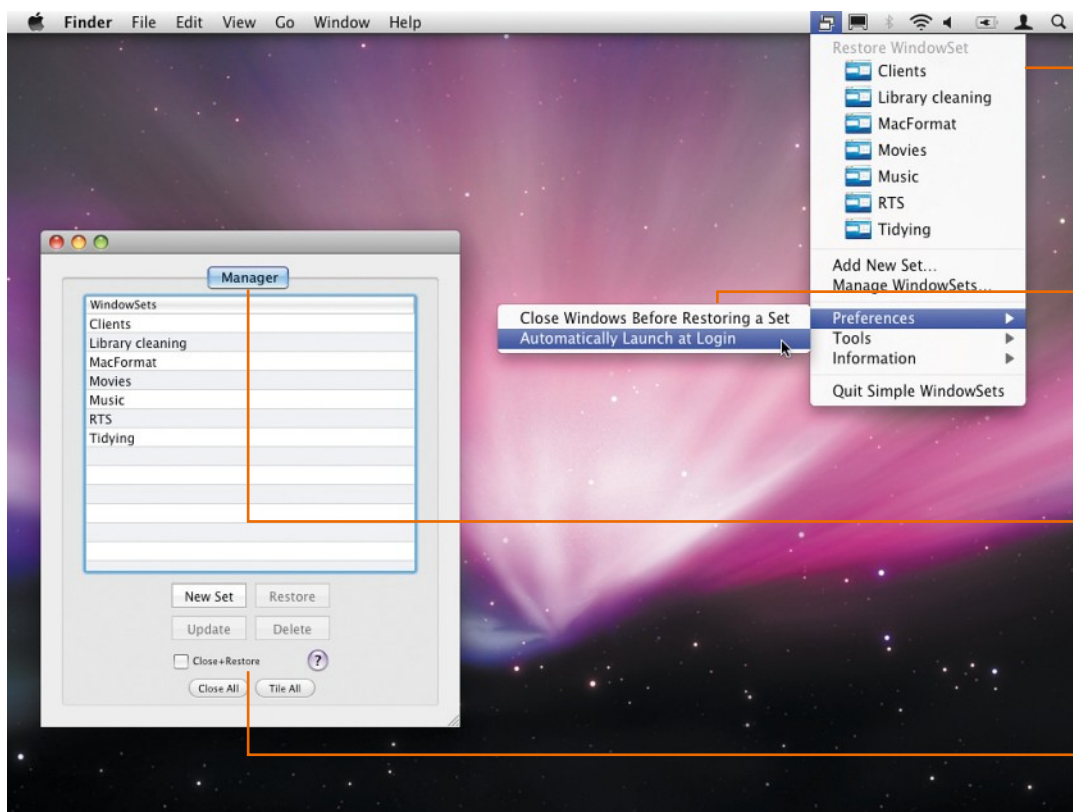
you'll wonder how you ever survived without it.

Handily, the application also provides options for controlling your sets, rather than just enabling you to create them. Most importantly, you can update existing sets with new windows and positions. However, you can also tile on-screen *Finder* windows (in a manner tidier than *Finder* itself allows by ⌘-clicking a window's zoom button), and you determine whether restored window sets replace or are appended to any *Finder* windows that are already open.

You can find the *Simple WindowSets* trial on our disc; for more information and purchasing details, head to the developer's website, www.hamsoftengineering.com/products/sws/sws.html.

Craig Grannell

TOP FEATURES | The interface: Simple WindowSets explained



Configured windows

You can restore any configured window sets via the drop-down menu from *Simple WindowSets'* menu bar.

Preferences

Simple WindowSets' Preferences option determines if restored sets override previous ones or are added to existing windows.

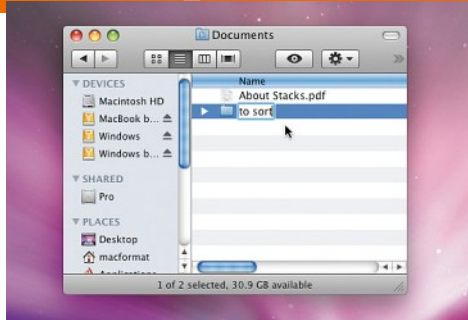
Manager

The Manager window enables you to update existing window sets. You can also add a new set here, or delete one you no longer need.

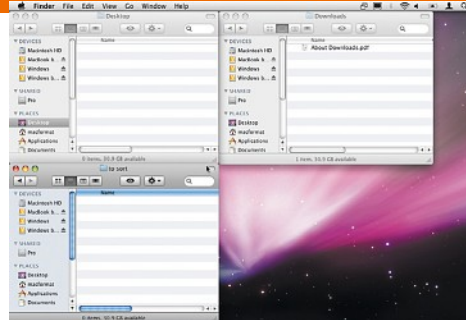
Closing/tiling windows

Buttons and menu items exist in the Manager window for closing or tiling open *Finder* windows. Simply choose which option you would like.

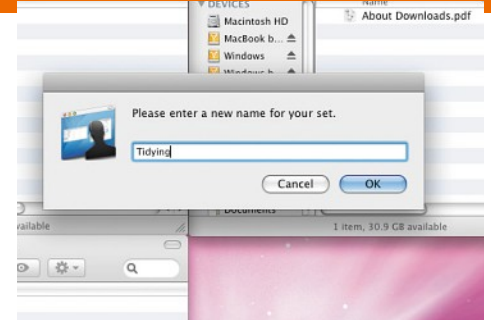
STEP BY STEP Create and update a Finder window set



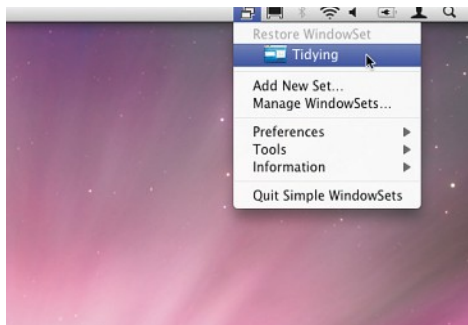
01 A common reason to use multiple windows is to tidy away accumulated junk, and so we're going to create a window set to aid this process and speed it up. The technique can then be applied to various other tasks (web design, writing projects, etc.) First, open ~/Documents and create a target folder for your bits and bobs.



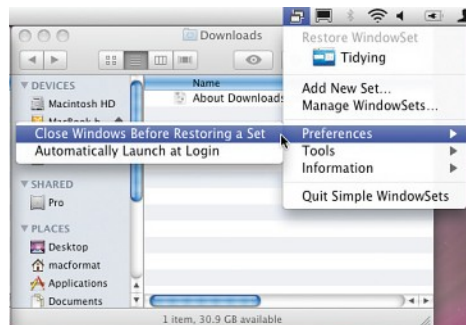
02 Next, open and position relevant folders exactly as you want them. Here, we've opened our **Downloads** and **Desktop** folders – the places junk usually accumulates – along with the **to sort** folder. In future, we'll be able to drag things to deal with to the **to sort** folder and trash everything else.



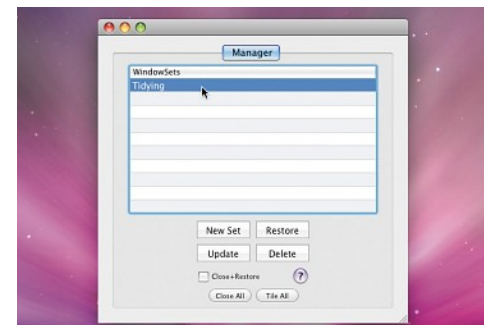
03 Once happy with your *Finder* window set, select **Add New Set...** from the **Simple WindowSets** drop-down menu. A dialog box will appear, asking you to enter a new name for your set. Since this name will appear in the drop-down menu (see next step), keep it succinct, unless you want your menu stretching across the screen.



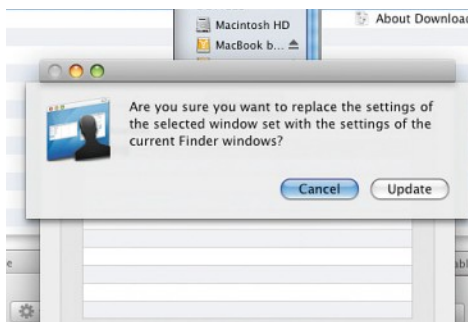
04 Click **OK** and the window set is saved. To restore the set at a later date, select it from the **Simple WindowSets** drop-down menu. With the application's default options turned on, your set will replace any currently open *Finder* windows, ready for you to do your work in a tidy *Finder* environment you've configured.



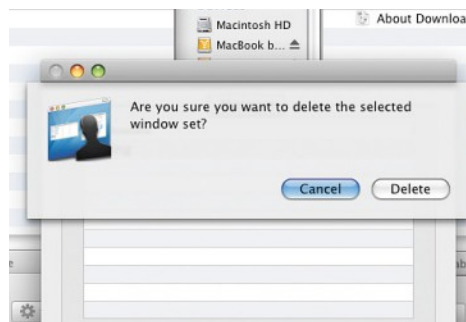
05 In some cases, you won't want your configured window sets to replace *Finder* windows you already have open. To append your set to existing *Finder* windows, deselect **Close Windows Before Restoring a Set** from the **Preferences** menu. Reselecting this menu item brings back the default behaviour.



06 As projects change over time, you might decide you want to change a *Finder* window set. Rather than creating a new set, it's better to update an existing one. To start, open the **Simple WindowSets** manager by selecting **Manage WindowSets...** from the drop-down menu, and select the set you wish to work with.

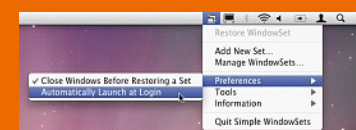


07 Click **Restore** to restore your window set as per the settings already saved in *Simple WindowSets*. Then, in *Finder*, make whatever changes you want, such as resizing windows, adding new windows, or closing windows. Once done, open the **Manager** and click **Update**. You'll be asked whether you want to replace your existing settings.



08 Click **Update** and your new settings will be stored. As before, your window set is restored by selecting it from the drop-down menu. To delete a set, follow the process shown in step 6, but click **Delete** in the **Manager** and then **Delete** in the confirmation sheet. ●

EXPERT TIP



To automatically launch *Simple WindowSets* at login, select **Preferences > Automatically Launch at Login** from the drop-down menu.

EXPERT TIP



Smart folders aren't currently supported by *Simple WindowSets*, nor is the Trash. Close such folders before adding a set or you'll see an error dialog.

Stream music to your iPhone

Increase your iPhone's music capacity by streaming iTunes over the net

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple iPhone or iPod touch running firmware 2.0 or later
- Mac OS X 10.4 or later
- Apple iTunes 7 or later (free, www.apple.com/itunes)
- Simplify Media (free, www.simplifymedia.com)
- Local network or internet connection

The iPod touch is a lovely device, but as we said in our review on p82, its mean capacity means that it's not always possible to store your complete library on there. The iPhone is even worse, storing at most a little under 16GB of music, which is just not enough.

Step forward, *Simplify Media*. This service runs a helper app on your Mac that shares your iTunes library over an internet connection, ready to be streamed to your iPhone. It even works over EDGE, so in theory you need never be away from your entire music library. There are caveats, however. First, the Mac you're streaming from has to be on, logged in and online. Your music isn't uploaded to any central server; it's streamed directly from your hard disk and relies on you having a decent upload speed from your home connection.

It works without any tinkering with your firewall, either on a local network or over the internet, and there's only a short delay as your songs are buffered.

The developers claim it's legit, despite the fact that you can invite a small, closed group of friends to connect to and share your music library. This latter functionality lets you connect to friends' iTunes libraries over the internet, and they'll appear in your shared list in the left-hand sidebar. There are, apparently, limits in place on how many people can access any one library at once.

It's free, it's encrypted and works with Mac OS, Windows and Linux. Give your iPhone infinite storage for music now!

Christopher Phin

Stream your entire music collection from iTunes on your home computer to your iPhone or iPod touch with *Simplify Media*.



TOP FEATURES | The best bits of Simplify Media



Create playlists

You can easily create playlists on the copy of iTunes that you'll be streaming from; you'll see them on the iPhone, too.

Status checks

Simplify Media allows you to check the status of your connection, such as how many files you're sharing, and also invite other users to share your collection.

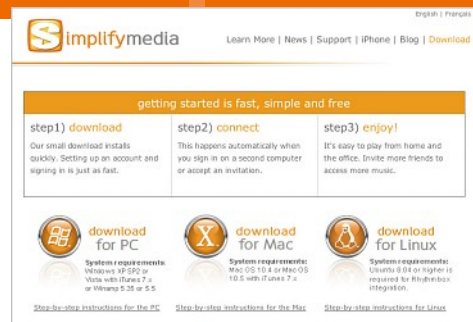
Switch collections

You can share a number of music collections, and switch between which you view with a couple of taps.

iTunes on your iPhone

Once you're connected, you see all the songs and playlists in the iTunes library on the home computer that you're streaming from.

STEP BY STEP Setting up Simplify Media to stream your iTunes music to your iPhone



01 The first step is to download and install the *Simplify Media* helper app onto the Mac (or PC running Windows or Linux) that you want to share music from. It will hook into *iTunes* – even showing any playlists you have set up – or simply stream from a particular folder. Go to www.simplifymedia.com to download the app.



02 If you don't already have an account, you'll need to sign up for one. As part of the setup assistant, you'll be asked if you already have an account or not. Click **No** then enter your details. You'll be prompted to enter a name for each computer you link to your account later, so you can choose a pretty generic username here.



03 You'll also be asked what you want to share. Most of us use *iTunes* to manage our music, so that's probably the option you'll want to pick, but if you manage your music manually, or want, for example, to use *Simplify Media* to stream a series of audio files to different users in an education context, you might want to pick the folder option.



04 Next, download the application from the App Store. You could, of course, download it using *iTunes* then sync it to your iPhone or iPod touch, but you'll get going quicker if you just use the App Store on your iPhone. Either search for *Simplify Media* or browse through into the *Music* category to find it, then tap the **Install** button.



05 Launch the app on your iPhone, then tap through the screens that tell you how to use it. You want to get to the one where you log in. Enter the username and password you created when you signed up for an account in step two – taking particular care to get things right with the tiny on-screen keyboard – then click **Done**.



06 The first time you try to connect, things might take a little time. Keep an eye on the *Simplify Media* application running on your Mac to check its status. Basically, what we're saying here is that you might have to be patient! After this initial setup, subsequent connections should be essentially instantaneous.



07 Once you're connected you'll see various different filters you can apply to view your library, akin to the artist, album, genre and song views that you'll be familiar with on the iPod app. Select a song from these or pick one of the playlists that will also show up, and after a second or two for buffering, it will begin to play.



08 Best of all, though, is that you actually get even more functionality than you do with the built-in iPod app. Not only does the system pull down artist biographies – assuming your tracks are correctly tagged – but it will also try to find lyrics on LyricWiki. Don't blame us if your fellow commuters tut at your karaoke! ●

TOOL SCHOOL



If you wish, you can also share your music library over the internet to other copies of *iTunes*; it will show up as a shared library like any other on your local network.

EXPERT TIP

Simplify Media is pretty clever and even, in our testing, worked behind a corporate firewall. Keep an eye on data usage, though; if you're on a capped plan, you could incur charges.



SAVE \$78

WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TODAY*

Get your copy of *MacFormat* up to three weeks before it hits the US newsstands for just \$9.99 and save \$78 – only when you subscribe!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY

Subscribe for just \$129.99 (or \$32.49 every three months) and you'll receive 13 issues a year of troubleshooting advice and reviews of all the latest Apple kit. All this and more will be delivered straight to your door, up to three weeks before it arrives on the US newsstands!

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

www.imsnews.com/mfc

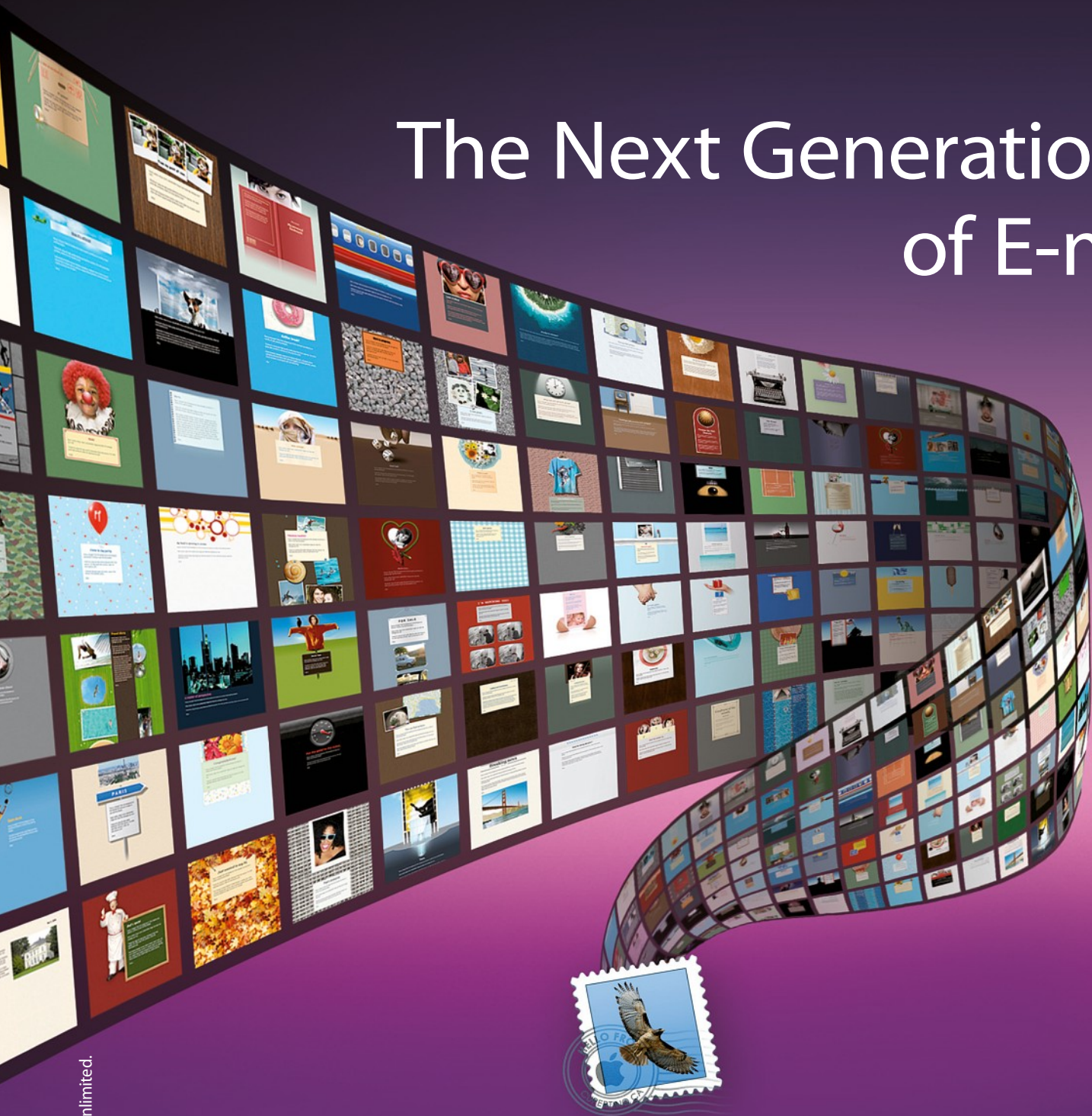
Please enter the promotional code A014 to enjoy this offer

Terms and Conditions:

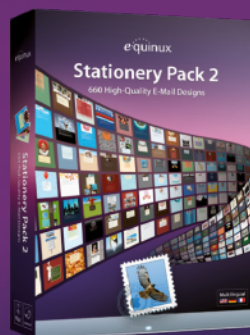
This offer is only available to new US and Canadian subscribers. We publish 13 issues of *MacFormat* a year and the minimum subscription term is 12 months. If, at any time during the next 60 days, you are dissatisfied in any way, please notify us in writing and we will refund you all unmailed issues. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. This offer expires on 15 December 2008.

e·quinox

The Next Generation of E-mail



Resellers obtain Stationery Pack 2 through Computers Unlimited.



Stationery Pack 2

Stationery Pack 2 contains over 660 e-mail designs, that can be generated from a total of 122 templates with a simple mouse click. Change the colors, background and themes of many templates, use your own photos and write as much as you want in the dynamic text boxes. Now for every occasion you'll have the perfect e-mail with a personal touch.

Available at www.equinox.com or at Apple retailers.



All you need for... Protecting a new iPod

Turn to
p82 for full
reviews

The new iPod nano & iPod touch already have plenty of cases



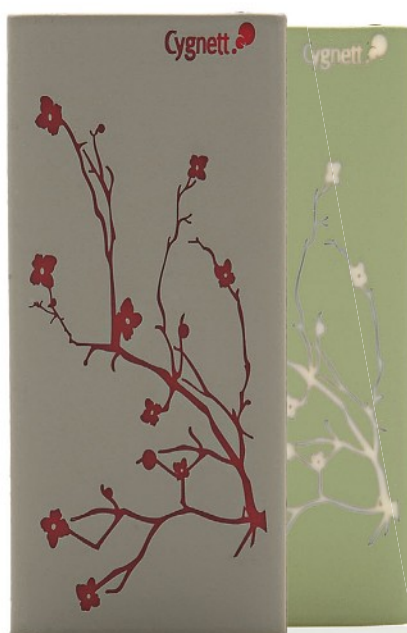
Two-tone

Cygnett Duotone Cases

Price: £11.99

Web: www.easyishop.co.uk

Cygnett is probably best known for its range of FM transmitters and speakers for the iPod, but what you might not know is that it does quite a nice line in iPod cases, too. We're particularly keen on the two new Duotone cases for the iPod nano. The cases are made out of tough silicon rubber and include an overlay to provide extra protection for the iPod's screen. The Duotone Blossom has a delicate floral design in complementary contrasting colours, while the Duotone Scribble has a rather pleasing random doodle drawn over the case.



Classic elegance

Proporta Alu-Leather Case

Price: £15-£20

Web: www.proporta.com

The iPod classic update seems to have gone almost unnoticed, but Proporta has made most of its new cases available for the classic as well as the new nano and touch. For those dancing-round-your-handbag moments there's the Mirror case, which flips open to reveal a make-up mirror. We also like the super-shiny Echo case, which turns into a mirror when the iPod screen is off. But our favourite is the simple elegance of Proporta's Alu-Leather cases.



Look smart

Gear4 LeatherWallet

Price: from £19.99

Web: www.gear4store.com

Gear4 wins the award for getting the first batch of new cases out to market ahead of everyone else. Highlights of their range include the cool feel of the shiny, see-through Icebox case for the iPod nano (£14.99) and you can't help but notice the sparkly fake-diamond-encrusted Jumpsuit Bling (£14.99), if you go for that kind of thing. However, for a touch of class we can't resist the smart, well-made LeatherWallet for the new iPod touch.

Tough stuff

TuneWear IceWear

Price: from £14.99

Web: www.tunewear.com

Tunewear's new cases for the iPod nano and iPod touch focus on providing extra strong protection – such as the IceWear case which is made out of the same tough silicon used for the eyepieces in underwater diving masks. The IceWear case is also supplied with a TuneFilm, a clear protective film that you can place over the iPod's screen (even the touch-screen of the iPod touch) to keep it from picking up those irritating scratches.



Double protection

Griffin Elan Convertible

Price: £16.99

Web: www.currys.co.uk

Griffin has an attractive range of cases for the new iPod nano and iPod touch, including a sports armband, and the tough, see-through iClear case. However, we like the Convertible case, a leather case with a removable cover. You can slip off the cover when you're using the iPod, or replace it for extra protection if you need to pack it away for travelling.



Cheap and cheerful

Belkin Sonic Wave Silicon Sleeve

Price: from £12.99

Web: www.belkin.co.uk

Belkin's new offerings range from sports armbands to tasteful leather wallets for executive types. And if you're looking for something cheap and cheerful then we'd opt for the Sonic Wave cases. These tough, rubber sleeves protect the iPod and are adorned with an eye-catching stencil effect – and you can get a two-pack for the iPod nano for just £12.99. ●

Words Graham Barlow Photography Courtesy of Apple

The history of the iPod

MacFormat takes a look back at the last seven years of Apple's iconic music player

2001

2002

2003

1st gen iPod

Released: October 2001

Details: 5GB, FireWire, battery: 10 hours audio
A 10GB version was released later. This model contained a mechanical scroll wheel that physically turned when you moved it with your finger.



2nd gen iPod

Released: July 2002

Details: 10, 20GB, FireWire, battery: 10 hours audio
The first Windows compatible iPod and also the introduction of the first touch sensitive scroll wheel to the iPod.



With the new colourful refresh to the iPod line this September we suddenly realised just how out of date the iPods owned by the *MacFormat* team now look. It's not until you put pictures of the iPod back to back that you realise just how much it's changed over the years.

The iPod was launched on 23 October 2001 with more of a whimper than a bang. The launch event itself was held at Apple's Cupertino campus for a small gaggle of invited journalists, and not even deserving of a proper MacWorld keynote. Despite the lack of prestige, Steve Jobs obviously knew he was onto a winner, because he launched iPod with the following words:

"The biggest thing about the iPod is that it holds 1,000 songs. This is a quantum leap because for most people it's their entire music library. This is huge."

Then came the killer line.

"The coolest thing about the iPod is that your whole music library fits *in your pocket*."

That was the hook that did it – a simple concept that everybody could understand. With those words,

"Steve Jobs had created an entirely new industry based around a portable digital music player – an industry that Apple would dominate"

Steve Jobs had created an entirely new industry based around a portable digital music player – an industry that Apple would dominate for the next seven years, and probably beyond that. Companies like Creative and Diamond Multimedia were there first, but it was Apple that made the market take off.

A great idea without great implementation wouldn't cut it though, and it was also the design of the iPod that made it successful. It was ultra-thin (for the time) and had a huge capacity (again, for the time) at 5GB. It also had 20 minutes of skip protection, so you could take it jogging, cycling or wherever you wanted without skipping a beat. It was fast, too. It had a FireWire connection for quickly

getting your music off your Mac and onto the iPod. Over time, as the comparable USB 2.0 standard evolved, Apple quietly dropped FireWire support altogether, but at the time it was a big selling point.

Back then it would take roughly five minutes to transfer a CD to a music player over USB, but FireWire cut this down to 10 seconds. That's 30 times faster! Even the original iPod's ten hours of battery life was considered 'extraordinary'.

The first iPod only worked on a Mac, but Apple soon realised that if the iPod was really going to take off it needed to have a wider vision – a vision that encompassed Windows as well as Mac, and a digital music store from which people could purchase and download digital music with ease. Nobody thought it could be done, but somehow Apple managed to get all the big music labels to come on board, with iPod at the centre of the whole thing. The rest, as they say, is history.

Join us for our look back at the last seven years of the iPod, but be warned – you might well feel like it's time to upgrade your own iPod after reading it! ►

2004

2005

3rd gen iPod

Released: April 2003

Details: 10, 15, 20, 30, 40GB, FireWire (USB for syncing only), battery: 8 hours audio
The first all-touch sensitive interface. At the same time, *iTunes* becomes available for Windows.

1st gen iPod mini

Released: January 2004

Details: 4GB, FireWire, USB, battery: 8 hours
A new smaller iPod, available in five colours, and the introduction of the first Click Wheel, which contains the buttons themselves.

4th gen iPod

Released: July 2004

Details: 20, 40GB, FireWire or USB, battery: 12 hours audio
The first full iPod to use the new Click Wheel from the iPod mini. The Click Wheel has been a staple ever since.

4th gen iPod photo

Released: October 2004

Details: 30, 40, 60GB, FireWire or USB, battery: 15 hours audio, 5 hours slideshow
This was the first ever iPod with a colour screen. It could display photos synced from your Mac or PC.





1st gen iPod shuffle

Released: January 2005

Details: 512MB, 1GB, USB, battery: 12 hours audio
The first screen-less iPod. Used flash memory and came with a lanyard so you could wear it around your neck.

4th gen iPod colour

Released: June 2005

Details: 20, 60GB, FireWire or USB, battery: 15 hours audio, 5 hours slideshow
Essentially just a refresh of the iPod photo line, but with different hard drive sizes.

2nd gen iPod shuffle

Released: September 2006

Details: 1GB, 2GB, USB, battery: 12 hours audio
Completely redesigned with clip-on case. Four colour options were added later and the colours have so far been refreshed twice.

2005

2006

2007

2nd gen iPod mini

Released: February 2005

Details: 4, 6GB, FireWire or USB, battery: 18 hours audio
Brighter colours and much longer battery life than the previous version, plus a new larger 6GB capacity.

1st gen iPod nano

Released: September 2005

Details: 1, 2, 4GB, USB (FireWire for charging only), battery: 14 hours audio, 4 hours slideshow
Replaced the iPod mini range entirely. Using flash memory, the nano came in black or white only. The 1GB model was introduced later.

5th gen iPod

Released: October 2005

Details: 30, 60, 80GB, USB (FireWire for charging only), battery: 14 hours audio, 2 hours video (for the 30GB model), 20 audio, 3/6.5 video (for 60/80GB)
A complete redesign that also brought video playback to the iPod for the first time. In September 2006, minor updates were made: brighter screens, more memory, a search feature, but the visual look stayed the same.

2nd gen iPod nano

Released: September 2006

Details: 2, 4, 8GB, USB (FireWire for charging only), battery: 24 hours audio, 5 hours slideshow
The iPod nano gets a colourful refresh. The new anodised aluminium casing came in six different colours.





3rd gen iPod nano

Released: September 2007

Details: 4, 8GB, USB (FireWire charging only), battery: 24 hours audio, 5 hours video
Completely new design with a 2-inch QVGA screen, video capability and new colours.



2nd gen iPod touch

Released: September 2008

Details: 8, 16, 32GB, USB, battery: 36 hours audio, 6 hours video
New speaker and volume buttons added, plus it's even thinner than before. See our review on page 82.

2008

2009

6th gen iPod classic

Released: September 2007

Details: 80, 160GB, USB (FireWire charging only), battery: 30 hours audio, 5 hours video (80GB model), 40 hours audio, 7 hours video (160GB)
The first iPod to have the 'classic' suffix, and the largest capacity so far.

1st gen iPod touch

Released: September 2007

Details: 8, 16, 32GB, USB (FireWire for charging only), battery: 22 hours audio, 5 hours video
Originally only in 8GB and 16GB, with the 32GB being added later. The first iPod with WiFi and Multi-Touch.

7th gen iPod classic

Released: September 2008

Details: 120GB, USB (FireWire for charging only), battery: 36 hours audio, 6 hours video
New greener build materials and audio-in capability. Only available in a single 120GB memory size.

4th gen iPod nano

Released: September 2008

Details: 8, 16GB, USB, battery: 24 hours audio, 4 hours video
A new design in nine different colours and a built-in accelerometer. See our full review on page 84 this issue.



Q&A



Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
mfhelpline@futurenet.co.uk

Our technical wizard works wonders with WiFi networks, deals with random shut downs and more

QUICK TIP

Finder toolbars



Streamline your *Finder* windows by turning off the sidebar and toolbar along the top. Simply hit $\text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + [\text{T}]$ to toggle them on and off.

MIX WIFI NETWORKS ON MACBOOK

Q In my London apartment, I use my MacBook to connect wirelessly to the internet via BT Openzone; this works very well. I also use my AirPort Express to play my *iTunes* library from my MacBook through some pretty impressive Altec Lansing speakers (this also works very well). However, I don't appear to be able to do both at the same time.

Is it possible to connect wirelessly to the internet (via my BT Openzone account) from my MacBook, whilst simultaneously streaming music to my external speaker set through the AirPort Express? And, if so, how do I configure it?

Alan Davidson

BT Openzone lets you stream music and browse the web, but not at the same time.

A Each WiFi network has its own identifying tag (called an SSID); the BT Openzone hotspot you are connecting to will have one and your AirPort Express will use another. You can only connect your Mac to one SSID at a time because you only have one wireless Ethernet adaptor. In theory, you could connect to the AirPort Express

and then have the Express connect to the Openzone hotspot but, unfortunately, I don't think there is any way to configure the Express to negotiate the Openzone login process.

There are a couple of ways around this and I'm just pondering which is the cheapest and/or most elegant. You could use a wireless

bridge connected to the Ethernet port on your MacBook to allow you to use the wired Ethernet adaptor to connect to a second wireless network at the same time. But unless you don't have a landline in your apartment, the easiest thing is surely to move from BT Openzone to using your own broadband connection with BT. Or any other ISP really. The point is that this would allow you to use a single SSID for all the wireless devices in your apartment.

MOVING iTUNES TO AN EXTERNAL DRIVE

Q How do I create an *iTunes* library on an external hard drive? I remember reading a hint about this in a *MacFormat* Q&A column a few issues back, but the copy has now been recycled.

Javier Macuaga



Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from MacWarehouse

IF YOU START ME UP I'LL NEVER STOP

If something is misbehaving on your Mac it can be very difficult to work out what the cause is, or how to fix it. I'm a great believer in keeping records of what changes have been made to a system so that you can, at least, try to see if something going wrong coincided with something that you changed. However, sometimes things just go wrong and you then have to start trying to put them right.

If you have a look in your *Applications* folder, then in *Utilities* you will find a program called *Activity Monitor*. Open that up and then, from the pop-up menu just to the right of centre, choose the option *All Processes, Hierarchically*. You will then see all the running processes that

make up the Mac OS and which process launched them. You will also see which user owns each process. In most cases it will be just root (which is the Mac OS itself) and the names of any users that are logged in. Most times when your Mac crashes it will be one of these processes that has hung, and in doing so it may stop some or all of the processes that were launched by the same parent process. If you are able to stop the process that has hung you may be able to regain control of your Mac; it can be useful to keep *Activity Monitor* open at all times.

The Mac OS, like any UNIX-like OS, consists of many layers. Think of it like an onion, with you at the middle. In order to fix a



problem you need to be able to work out on which layer the problem lies. The first thing to do is to check if the problem just affects your user account. Create a new user account in *System Preferences > Accounts*, log out from your account and then log in as the new user. Try to replicate your problem. If it has gone away then it is likely that the issue is with your user account, most probably with a preference file or .plist located in your $\sim > \text{Library} > \text{Preferences}$ folder, but if it persists then it is likely to be with the OS as a whole. If it looks like it is a problem with the OS the next thing to try is a Safe Boot. To do this shut your Mac down, then switch it back on and as soon as you hear the startup sound hold down

A It is essentially no more complex than opening iTunes Preferences > Advanced and clicking the **Change** button to set the iTunes folder to a location on your external hard disk. This will only move the music files themselves, though. If you want to move the library index files and album artwork as well, there are a couple of additional steps to follow. These are described in excellent detail in a Lifehacker tutorial over at <http://tinyurl.com/youz3s>.

IS CANDYBAR APP THE PROBLEM?

Q I have recently had a problem with my Mac stopping me from being able to use it. This is what happened: I was surfing the web and checked for software updates. Once I had updated, *Software Update* told me to restart but once it had restarted no application would open. So I restarted again and found that I was stuck on a blue screen. I looked in the manual and could not fix it. I then took my precious Mac to a specialist who fixed it for £120. He told me that *CandyBar* was the problem because it was an application enhancer. But I had been using it for a long time before the problem. Can you tell me whether or not *CandyBar* is the problem? I really enjoyed using it to customise icons, I am running Mac OS X Leopard 10.5.4.

Joshua Garnham



Panic's *CandyBar* is a great little app for customising the entire set of icons on your Mac.

A It doesn't sound very likely to me. *CandyBar* (www.panic.com) just replaces the icon files and graphics – it's not a kernel hack that runs continuously in the background. It's much more likely to have been a problem with *Software Update* itself. I'd be inclined to reinstall *CandyBar* and see if the problem recurs. Of course, you don't want to have to pay £120 again if I'm wrong, so make sure you've got a full system backup before you try this. Of course, it would be nice if we knew what the specialist actually did for his £120. Perhaps you could ask him. Then tell me and I'll tell you how to do it again if you ever need to.

CAN'T UPDATE WITH BOOT CAMP

Q I am using a MacBook on which I have *Boot Camp*. Recently I am getting a message from Microsoft that there is an update

available for Windows XP but if I try to download it I get a message: **There is not enough space on C:\windows\SNT Service Pack Uninstall\$ to install Service Pack 3. It needs an additional 4 megabytes of free space.**

I have removed a large music file of just over 1GB but the same message is still appearing. When I look at the hard disk in use I have free space of 32.8GB. A friend, who is very conversant with Windows XP, unlike myself, is as baffled as I am.

Ray Bristow

A When computers complain about a measly 4MB of disk space, you just know that something fishy is going on. No one has a hard disk that full. Rather, I believe this is caused by the Extensible Firmware Interface that is used on Intel Macs but isn't properly supported by Windows XP. There is a registry

hack that will neatly side-step the problem, though. Open *regedit* (click Start > Run, type *regedit* and hit [Enter]). Navigate your way to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE > Software > Microsoft > Windows > CurrentVersion > Setup. In the right-hand pane, right-click and select New > String value. Enter **BootDir** as the name and set the value to C:\. You should now be able to install Service Pack 3.

TIME MACHINE AND ENTOURAGE FILES

Q *Time Machine* is excellent. I use my 550GB iMac with a 300GB LaCie backup. While I can search back for virtually anything on my computer, I cannot find any *Entourage* files like old deleted emails. It works fine with the other Office programs, but not this one.

Tony, Richmond

A The problem with *Entourage* is that it stores all your emails in one humongous database. *Time Machine* isn't aware of this and just treats the database like any other large file so whenever any new email arrives, the database looks different and the whole lot gets backed up again. This can fill your *Time*

QUICK TIP

Snap to Grid

Even if you have Snap to Grid turned on in *Finder*, you can still position an icon at an arbitrary location by temporarily overriding this behaviour. Just hold the ⌘ key down as you drag.

QUICK TIP

iCal events

If you include a web address in an *iCal* event, you can surround it with angle brackets to make it clickable directly from *iCal*.

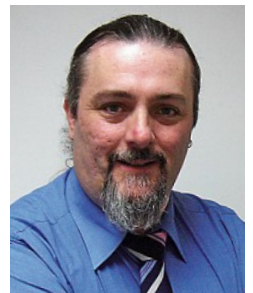
Try backing up *Entourage* email files to a separate app, instead of *Time Machine*.



the ⇧ key. Keep the ⇧ key held down until you see the gearwheel spinning on-screen, you should see the words **Safe Boot** on the login window. Log in to your Mac and try to replicate the problem. If it has gone away it is worthwhile rebooting as normal, since a Safe Boot does perform a few fixes (see <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1564>). If the problem still exists after a Safe Boot then it is worthwhile checking things in your Library > Preferences folder; if that doesn't fix it then it may be time to do an Archive & Install (see <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1545>).

The Mac OS keeps its preference files in a few places. Those preferences that affect the whole computer are in the Library > Preferences folder and those that affect just a user are in ~ > Library >

Preferences. We use ~ to mean Users > 'yourusername'. Most preference files end with .plist and have the name of the program or feature that needs them as part of the filename. In order to isolate preference files [Ctrl]-click on them and choose either **Archive** or **Compress** (depending on which version of Mac OS you are running) and then delete the original file. Once you have done that, log out of the account and back in again, or reboot the Mac if you're troubleshooting something system-wide, and then see if the problem has gone. If it has you may need to reset a few settings, but if it hasn't delete the new .plist file that got created automatically, uncompress the old one and then try with the next preference file.



Bill Gallop is Technical Manager of MacWarehouse
www.macwarehouse.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Quick-fire Mail

If you need to fire off a quick email but you have another application in the foreground, you can right-click the Mail icon in the Dock and choose **Compose New Message** to switch to Mail with a new message window already open.

You can share your photos between all users on a Mac, by going to Preferences > Sharing > Share my photos.

Machine volume up very quickly. Worse, *Time Machine* won't let you use the *Entourage* interface to step back through time to find an old email, like you can with OS X Mail. Instead you'll need to use *Finder* in *Time Machine* to locate the copy of the *Entourage* data folder from the correct date and restore that. But, of course, this will roll back the state of *all* of your emails – every message you have sent or received since that date will disappear.

You can export emails to a .mbox file and these will get backed up independently (or you can import them to Mail) but scripting this to happen automatically isn't easy to do. A better alternative might be to use a separate program to

back up your email. There are several of these specifically targeted at *Entourage*. The imaginatively titled *Email Backup Pro* (on the disc) is just one of them.

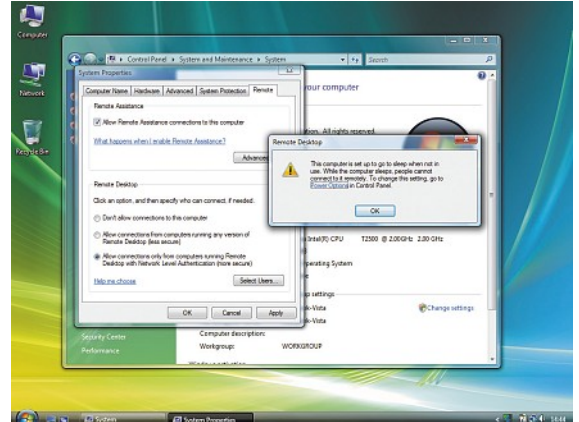
SHARING iPHOTOS ON A SHARED MAC

Q My iMac at home that's running Leopard is shared between four users: my wife, my two daughters and myself. We recently returned from a family holiday where we shot many photos with my wife's new digital camera.

I wish to be able to share the photos between the users of the Mac so that each user can edit, view and print the photos within *iPhoto*. The only way I have managed to do this so far is to copy all of the photos to the Shared folder for the Mac then allow each user to import them, however this means (I think) four separate copies of each photo on the computer. Is there a simpler or more elegant solution?

Brendan Carmel
Melbourne, Australia

A Since version 4, *iPhoto* has used the Bonjour protocol to share photo albums, and if everyone has this version or later on their computers then all you need to do is open Preferences on one of them and tick **Share my photos** on the Sharing tab. All the others would have the Look for shared



You cannot control a PC from a Mac with Remote Desktop Connection 2 if running Windows XP Home.

photos option ticked. If you have earlier versions on any of the Macs then they would need to actually import the photos from the shared folder. This does create duplicate files, but in terms of disk space consumed, the cost is fairly trivial.

CONTROLLING A PC FROM A MAC

Q I was very interested in your article regarding control of a PC from a Mac in *MacFormat* issue 199, as I have a PC laptop running Windows XP and a MacBook running Mac OS X 10.4.11. However when trying to follow your step-by-step instructions to tell the PC to accept the remote connection, I only have remote assistance offered in step 3. Is this because I only have XP Home and not Professional? Is there any way round this?

Peter Ruddle

A Sadly not. *Remote Desktop Connection 2* will only connect to XP Professional or Media Centre and Vista Business, Enterprise or Ultimate. You could use Apple *Remote Desktop* and third-party VNC software but it would be cheaper by far to upgrade the PC to Vista (or better still, XP Pro, if you could find a copy).

CREATING PLAYABLE DVDs FROM iTunes

Q I am a "senior newbie" with a newish Leopard iMac. I have a big iTunes library, mainly of my own CDs, in AIFF, divided into big playlists. When I go to burn any of this, say a particular playlist, from iTunes to DVD it will burn only as a data file – whatever that is – which will not play on DVD players. I tried converting a playlist to MP3 before burning. That did not work. I tried burning to the DVD from a Burn



Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

MAIL NOT PLAYING THE NEW MAIL SOUND

Many users have been experiencing problems with *Mail*, where the New Mail sound does not seem to be working. *Mail* will appear and the Dock indicators will display the number of new messages, but the alert sounds will not occur. This has even occurred for users with brand new Macs.

One user, *catholicon*, said: "I recently bought the MacBook and, set up with the new notebook, everything was fine, except that there is no new mail sound whenever new mail comes."

This is a problem that has been around for some time now, and it has persisted despite selection of different *Mail* sounds, creation of

new user accounts, and running permissions fixes on the hard drive. Most likely, this problem has to do with the *Mail* application itself, and a fix will have to come via an update from Apple. Until then there are several things users can try.

CHANGE SOUND FILE PERMISSIONS

Sound files are located in the various libraries, and should be accessible by the current user account in order to be played. If, for some reason, the permissions on a sound file have been altered such that the user does not have access, then this will prevent them from being played in *Mail*. By default, sound files in the User folder should have both read and execute

permissions for the owner and everyone else, and those in the main Library folder should be at least readable by everyone. To change the permissions back to their default values, run the following commands in *Terminal*, entering the Administrator password when prompted:

```
sudo chmod uo=rx ~/Library/Sounds/*
sudo chmod u=rw,go=r /System/Library/Sounds/*
```

Secondly, if the built-in sounds are not functioning properly in *Mail*, try copying them from the



RANDOM SHUT DOWNS | Is my Mac's hard disk full?

Q I have a 2GHz PowerPC G5 (with 512MB RAM) which randomly closes down, sometimes it cuts out before it's fully booted while at other times it may operate satisfactorily for about an hour or so before suddenly closing down. I wonder if it could be the internal battery running down or alternatively the start-up disk being full. I have at various times received on-screen messages that the start-up disk is nearly full. If the latter is the explanation, how do I make more space available on the start-up disk?

David Sparks

A A full hard disk won't cause a Mac to shut down and neither

will a flat CMOS battery. This is much more likely to be a dry solder joint causing a loose connection on the motherboard or an unstable power supply. It could also be a faulty memory module, though I'd rate that as somewhat less likely. Unfortunately the standard diagnostic process for this sort of intermittent error is to systematically replace components with ones that you cannibalise out of a fully functioning machine. This can work quite well for PC owners who often have an elephant's graveyard of dead computers in the cupboard under the stairs. But Mac owners don't generally have such a resource available to draw on (partly because their computers last longer to begin

with). There was a batch of G5 PowerPCs sold in 2005/06 that had dud power supplies and Apple extended the warranty for an extra year if you had a serial number in the correct range. But that program ended in August 2008 so that's no use to you now, even if yours was one of them.

I would still start with the power supply, though. It's the cheapest and simplest component to replace. eBay is probably the best place to go if you want to do this on the cheap. Or your local Apple authorised repairer if you don't want the hassle of doing all the hard work yourself.



Folder rather than direct from iTunes. That did not work either.

Is there any way I can make a DVD from iTunes that will play on a DVD player (as distinct from on a computer)?

Greg McCarry

A When you burn tunes to a DVD, iTunes won't let you use the "red book" audio CD standard that is used by CD and DVD players for audio discs. Instead the tunes are written as individual MP3 or AIFF files in DVD-ROM format. Whether or not this will play depends on your player. Some DVD players can read MP3 files but it is still far from standard. Since yours doesn't, your only option is to use CD-R or

CD-RW discs. You'll only be able to fit 74 minutes of audio on each one, though.

NO MORE FREEHAND UPGRADES AVAILABLE?

Q I am still using Macromedia FreeHand MX version 10.4.9 for my design and page-layout work, but have not noticed anything about upgrades recently. Has FreeHand become obsolete?

Yvonne Cain

A FreeHand 11 or FreeHand MX is the latest version. Adobe bought Macromedia in 2006 and announced last year that it had discontinued development and support of FreeHand. This is because it

competes with *Illustrator*. Adobe *Creative Suite 3* (which includes *Illustrator*) will allow you to import and convert FreeHand files, though.

MIXING G AND N WIRELESS STANDARDS

Q Luis, I would counsel that collapsing the g and n functionality into Time Capsule compromises the wireless connection for the Macs. My preferred solution for a mixed network is Time Capsule or AirPort Extreme providing 5GHz wide channel support for the Macs and an AirPort Express providing wireless b and g for legacy devices and not-so-legacy iPhone and iPod touch.

Dave Hall

A That's perfectly true. The Time Capsule will downshift to g speeds for the whole network, whenever a wireless b or g device is connected. But, in practice, it's a pretty rare home network that actually needs wireless n bandwidths. You certainly don't need it for print sharing or internet access. Buying an AirPort Express just to preserve wireless n speeds for the occasional large file transfer is rather profligate in most circumstances.

WHERE HAVE ALL MY PHOTOS GONE?

Q For some reason, all my photos in iPhoto have become unavailable. I select a photo, double-click on it

QUICK TIP

Quick tip header

If you find the default font in iTunes too small on your 24-inch monitor, you can change it in iTunes Preferences > General. **Source Text** changes the text for the menus, **Song Text** changes the text for the library.



Macintosh HD > Library > Sounds folder over to the ~ > Library > Sounds folder to see if that allows user accessibility. You should also note that the Mail application will need to be restarted in order for the moved sounds to register in the program.

DISABLE 'IDLE COMMAND' SUPPORT

In addition to ensuring permissions are correctly set on sound files, some users have found that unchecking the Use IDLE command if Server Supports It feature that's available for IMAP server types is a great help. You will find this option within your email application. Just go to Preferences > Accounts > Advanced and find the option there.

INSTALL GROWLMAIL PLUG-IN

The GrowlMail plug-in (<http://growl.info/documentation/growlmail.app>, on this issue's disc) is a notification application that interfaces Mail. Users have reported that after installing this application, Mail sounds appear to function again.

CREATE INCOMING SOUND MAIL RULES

You can easily create a rule in Mail to play sounds upon receiving new mail. In Mail's preferences, select Rules and create a new rule which has the conditions of Message Type is Mail, and the actions of Play



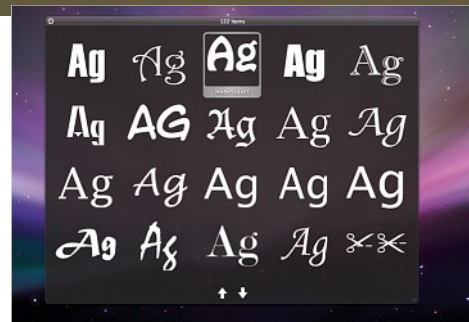
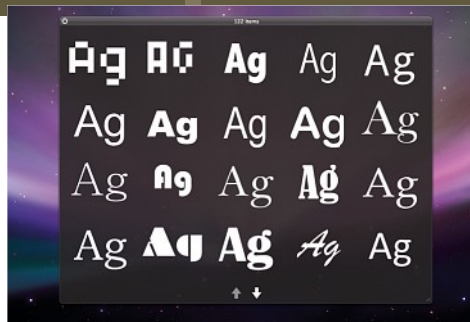
Sound. This should now play the sound when new mail arrives, but the drawback is that it might also play the sound when your mail is also sent; however, this might be tolerable for some users.

KEYCHAIN PASSWORDS DO NOT WORK IN FIREFOX

Some users have found that their internet passwords are not available in the OS X keychain when using Firefox, which has caused a little confusion, especially since other applications seem to be storing passwords perfectly fine.



STEP BY STEP Rapid keyboard navigation in OS X 10.5 Leopard's Quick Look feature



01 Quick Look is great for previewing content, but its **Index Sheet** feature, which displays a number of items simultaneously, is underused, and its keyboard shortcuts aren't well known. To open an **Index Sheet**, select several items in *Finder*, hit [Spacebar] and press ⌘+[Enter]. Depicted are numerous font previews.

02 If your selection contains more than 20 items, Quick Look offers arrows to navigate to the next and previous 20. You can click these, but if your hands are on the keyboard, use the [Page Up] and [Page Down] keys instead – it's quicker and less fiddly. (Note: this doesn't work when PDFs are previewed.)

03 An alternate means of Index Sheet keyboard navigation is to use the cursor keys. This also enables you to select a single item. On doing so, its filename (or a truncated version thereof) is displayed. Hitting [Enter] expands the selected item in Quick Look's standard mode. ●

QUICK TIP

DVD Player main menu

In *DVD Player*, ⌘+[D] will bring you back to the DVD's main menu at any time.



and the screen changes to full screen with a blurred exclamation mark in it. The file appears to be empty, although the picture is visible in the album.

Bryan Waldron

A The grey exclamation mark normally means that the file has been moved from its proper location. You can still browse the thumbnails because they are stored separately from the images themselves. If you right-click the thumbnail in the **Library** and choose **Show File**, you might be able to see the image file in *Finder*. If that doesn't work, you can try using Spotlight to search for the filename. You could even try clicking **Show Original File**

or **Revert To Original** from the **Shortcut** menu in case you are able to revert to an older version of an edited file.

Since all your photos have gone missing, my guess is that finding one will find them all. Once you discover their new location, check that you have Read permission (at least) for the files in *Finder* and then try re-importing the files by dragging them from *Finder* to *iPhoto*.

THERE'S A WEED IN MY APPLE GARDEN

Q I am a long-time Mac fan (as well as a *MacFormat* fan). My present line-up is: an iMac, a MacBook Pro and an iPhone 3G. I depend on Apple equipment in just about everything, for work

and leisure alike, and while the Apple total system integration philosophy has great user benefits, there are two big problems for now.

The first nuisance is my 1TB Time Capsule, which refuses to operate with *Time Machine*. It runs the initial backup well (albeit slowly) and then hangs on the second or third time. I always get the same error message: **Unable to complete backup. An error occurred while creating the backup directory.** I have tried a few homespun tricks, such as hard-resetting the Time Capsule (many times), manually erasing the Time Capsule disk and starting from scratch, or trying to delete the **.InProgress** file

from the Time Capsule drive (which has proven absolutely bomb-proof and undeletable). I only have two complete backups and the feature is now turned off.

The weird thing is, Time Capsule works absolutely beautifully with the MacBook Pro. It is just the first-generation aluminium iMac G5 that causes all the hiccups. I even re-installed Leopard, but the problem still persists.

Jukka Laaksonen
Helsinki

A Considering that *Time Machine* is undoubtedly Leopard's 'killer' feature (and possibly the greatest single feature ever added to an operating system), it's a shame

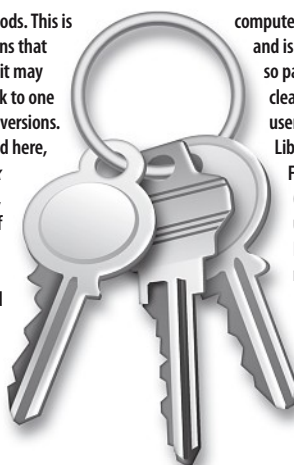
Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

Apple Discussions poster, [MsMercury01](#), said: "On my old computer, my keychain would save all of my passwords from the internet, so if there was one I couldn't remember I'd just click on the **Keychain** icon and look it up. Well, my keychain on the new iMac isn't saving any of the website passwords – just the ones to my instant messengers. I don't know what is different about it now that it won't save those passwords."

The keychain has become a fairly standard password storage system that is accessed by many applications, including many web browsers. However, it is not mandatory for developers to use the keychain for their applications, and many still choose to use their

own password storage methods. This is especially true for applications that are cross-platform, in which it may be easier to develop and stick to one code base for all application versions. In the case of the user quoted here, the problem was that *Firefox* was the browser being used, and this application is one of those that uses a different password storage routine.

When migrating from old computers, *Firefox* users should be sure to copy the username and password file over to the new



computer. The file is called **signons.txt** and is an encrypted jumble of text so passwords are not stored in the clear. This file is located in the user library under username > Library > Application Support > Firefox > *.default/signons.txt (NOTE: The * indicates some unique identifier numbers). It is recommended to migrate the whole *Firefox* folder from the **Application Support** directory over to the new computer, but users can also grab just the **signons** file.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.





Although Apple's Time Capsule and its Time Machine software are amazing in principal, corrupt JPEGs or Bluetooth radio files can stop it working.

that it seems to fail for so many people. The official Apple thread on this topic at <http://discussions.apple.com/thread.jspa?threadID=1197927> is about a mile and a half long and growing daily, despite that fact that Apple has had the thread marked as "solved" since about the third post. The problem is that this error message is something of a catch-all and there are a lot of different things that cause it. Here are a few:

- Having a computer or volume name with any characters other than letters or numbers in it.
- Having an empty folder at the end of the list in **Backups.backupdb** on the *Time Machine* volume. This may be listed as "in progress" but can have been left behind by an earlier failed backup.
- Corrupt JPEG files. Images that cause *Preview* to crash when you try to open them can also cause *Time Machine* to halt.
- Bluetooth radio interference with external FireWire drives.
- *Time Machine* volumes formatted with MBR (Master Boot Record) instead of GUID. To fix this, you'll need to reformat the *Time Machine* drive and select **Apple Partition Map** as the partition scheme for PowerPC Macs or **GUID** for Intel Macs.

EXPANDING MY HOME NETWORK

Q I have recently changed from a Windows PC to a Mac and I am very happy with my choice. It works very smoothly and the switch was painless; it recognised everything such as printers and modem which all worked first time. Most of the information I have needed I have been able to find without too many problems, but there are a couple of issues I need some help with.

Firstly, I have the 320GB 24-inch Mac and have added a Western Digital 500GB My Book external Hard Drive to use for the *Time Machine* backup. It set up flawlessly and is running just fine. I want to use the Mac for video editing, and as digital video eats hard disk space I want to add two further external 500GB hard drives to store and back up video projects. Will the additional hard disks 'daisy-chain' with each other using FireWire, and will they be recognised and show on the Desktop in the same way as the first drive? How will *Time Machine* interact with them? Could I disable them to *Time Machine* as I have the video backed up?

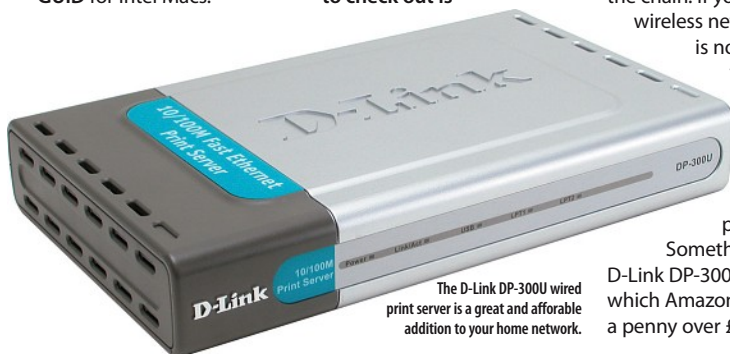
The other thing I wanted to check out is

printer sharing. I work from home and have an office, which my wife shares with me. For the moment she is using a PC. I have a Konica Minolta 5450 colour laser and an HP mono laser printer. In the next room another family member has a PC. All the computers are within four metres of each other. We are all connected to the internet via Ethernet to a broadband modem/router. The printers are connected to my Mac via a USB hub and work fine. Can I share these printers with the PC users? They are not 'network ready' models. I don't need wireless networking at the moment so I wondered if it was possible to connect the printers to a router so that we could all use them.

Ken Fixter

A Yes and yes. None of this is complicated. FireWire drives will daisy-chain quite happily and you can choose which drives to exclude from your *Time Machine* backup in the preferences pane. The only disadvantage of daisy chaining drives over using a FireWire hub is that the drives "upstream" in the chain will need to be powered up in order for you to be able to access the ones further down the chain. If you don't want wireless networking, there is no point paying for the extra complication of AirPort Extreme; just go for a regular wired print server.

Something like the D-Link DP-300U, perhaps, which Amazon.co.uk sells for a penny over £57. ●



The D-Link DP-300U wired print server is a great and affordable addition to your home network.

ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q My wife has a separate login on our Mac from myself. We also have a family .Mac account. Is it possible that every time I update a contact in my *Address Book* it will automatically update hers?
Hedgie Joined: 01 Sep 2008 Posts: 1 Location: Scotland

A Have you tried entering your .Mac details into your Mac while your wife is logged in? I can't see any reason why this wouldn't work, with your wife's login treated like a second Mac. You'd just need to enter your sync preferences in the MobileMe preference panel, setting it to automatically sync her contacts with The Cloud. I presume you have your own MobileMe preferences set to sync your contacts in this way?

Also, as a quick-and-dirty way of making an initial sync, open your *Address Book*. Under the File menu, select **Export > Address Book Archive** to create a backup of your database. Copy this database to a USB drive or similar (much easier than messing around with shared folders), then log in as your wife and open her *Address Book*. Now go for **File > Import > Address Book Archive**.

This will copy all your contacts to her *Address Book*, but also wipe hers clean. If she has any contacts which aren't in your *Address Book*, copy them to the Desktop first then re-import them.

This isn't a sync solution, but it will make syncing with MobileMe a lot quicker and easier if you do it first.

Ian Osborne Joined: 28 Jan 2005 Posts: 382 Location: Stafford

Q Whenever trying to verify or repair disk permissions in *Disk Utility*, it is stopping and giving me the message: *Disk Utility has lost its connection with the Disk Management Tool and cannot continue. Please quit and relaunch Disk Utility.*

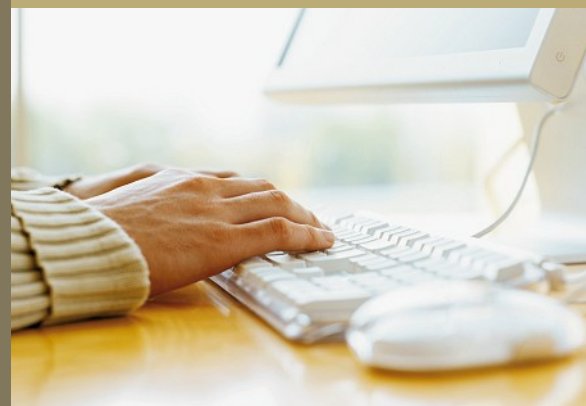
I have tried trashing any iTunes-related stuff in **Library > Receipts** bar the two recommended not to delete. I have also tried putting iTunes on my Desktop out of my **Applications** folder but to no avail.

jimmyhop Joined: 04 Sep 2008 Posts: 5

A As it appears to be iTunes-related, I would totally delete iTunes, download a fresh one from Apple's site and re-install. To completely delete iTunes, do the following:

1. In *Finder*, locate iTunes in the **Applications** folder and drag it to the Trash.
2. From the menu bar select **Go > Go to Folder**.
3. Enter **/System/Library/Extensions** and click **Go**.
4. Locate the file **AppleMobileDevice.kext** and drag it to the Trash.
5. From the menu bar select **Go > Go to Folder**.
6. Enter **/Library/Receipts/** and click **Go**.
7. Locate the file **AppleMobileDeviceSupport.pkg** and drag it to the Trash.
8. If prompted, authenticate with the Admin password.
9. Empty the Trash and restart the computer.
10. Install the current version of iTunes: www.apple.com/itunes

Costas Joined: 03 Jun 2007 Posts: 831 Location: London



Join our forum at <http://forum.macformat.co.uk>

SAVE up to 40% on the perfect gift for Christmas!



Save 38%
£48.28 - 13 issues



Save 30%
£34.58 - 13 issues



Save 30%
£33.67 - 13 issues



Save 35%
£42.17 - 13 issues



Save 35%
£33.72 - 13 issues



Save 40%
£31.12 - 13 issues



Save 35%
£37.94 - 13 issues



Save 35%
£33.72 - 13 issues



Save 35%
£30.84 - 13 issues



Save 32%
£39.78 - 13 issues

Give a magazine
subscription this Christmas!

A subscription makes the ideal gift bringing information and entertainment to your chosen recipient each and every month, throughout the year. Choose from any of the magazines above or go online and choose from over 60 magazines!

- ❄️ **A perfect** Christmas present they can enjoy throughout the year
- ❄️ **Convenient** and free home delivery every month
- ❄️ **Plus** a free gift card you can personalise to announce your gift

Special
Christmas
offer!

2 easy ways to subscribe:

1 Order online

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/Z501

2 Call 0844 848 2852

Please quote order code Z501 – lines open 8.00am-9.30pm weekdays, 8.00am-4pm Saturdays

Don't delay! Order your gift subscription today



We've had an industrious month playing with the new iPod touch, iPod nano and the new iTunes update. Reviews for all the new Apple gear start over the page.

Other products this issue include *SugarSync*, a local client and online service package that keeps all your files unified and updated across different Macs and even on your iPhone. The Vita Audio R4 speaker system astounded both the *MacFormat* team and the rest of the building when we played some tunes through it – see p87. Web developers can get our opinion on the *BEdit* and *Coda* updates that came out this month, and everyone should be interested in *iDrive for Mac*, which is a pretty app for backing up your data to online servers.

Following on from our main reviews are our regular shareware round-up and pick of the best iPhone apps, and our Group Test of web browsers brings the section to a close.



Apple iTunes 8 is here! p85



Apple iPod nano p84



Web browsers Group Test p104

James

Reviewed this issue...

HARDWARE

Apple iPod touch	82
Apple iPod nano	84
Freecom Mobile Drive XXS 160GB	86
Shure SE110	86
Vita Audio R4	87
Canon HV30	88
Gear4 BlackBox 24/7	89
Buffalo MicroStation Hybrid	
Portable Silicon Disk 32GB	89
Belkin Washable Mouse	90
Belkin CushTop	90
GelaSkins for 15-inch MacBook Pro	90
Gear4 Jumpsuit Grip	90

SOFTWARE

Apple iTunes 8	85
Karelia Software Sandvox 1.5	92
iDrive for Mac	93
Sharpcast SugarSync	94
TurboCAD Designers 2D	95
Kashflow	95
Panic Coda 1.5	96
Bare Bones Software BEdit 9	96

GROUP TEST

Web browsers	104
--------------	-----

Reviews

Read the best independent reviews of all the latest hardware and software every month, before parting with your cash

Our logos explained



A product that receives the **MacFormat Choice** is the best in its class at the time of review, and a product on which we would be happy to spend our own money.



Used only in our Group Tests, the **MacFormat Winner** award indicates the hardware or software that we feel stands out from the crowd, and therefore warrants you spending your cash.



We aim to bring you reviews just as soon as we can get our hands on samples of new products or software. We pride ourselves on bringing you exclusive reviews.



Wherever you see this logo you'll find either test versions or useful files associated with the review. These items are on the DVD to add value to our reviews section.

Reviews you can trust

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. Suppliers never see a review until the magazine hits the newsagents.

The price we quote for each product is the lowest we could find online from a reputable dealer at time of writing; for the latest prices see the TechRadar URL that accompanies each review.

Our star ratings

★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★★☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
★★★☆☆	Poor – keep your money in your wallet

PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYER

Apple iPod touch

£169, 8GB; £219, 16GB; £289, 32GB Can we forgive Apple for calling this the 'funnest' iPod ever?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/464926

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

iTunes 8, USB 2.0, either Mac OS X 10.4.10 or later, or Windows Vista, Windows XP Home or Professional with Service Pack 3

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✦ Slim and powerful
- ✦ Superb interface
- ✦ Third-party apps
- ✦ Volume controls and speakers
- Limited capacities
- More capable iPhone is (initially) cheaper

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A solid evolution of the iPod touch, adding a few nice little features, but we still wish Apple would do a high-capacity hard disk-based model."

Last year's launch of the iPod touch caught us in a grumpy mood. The problem wasn't so much that we hated it; on the contrary, the fluid, genuinely revolutionary Multi-Touch user interface wowed everyone who used it, and with its built-in 802.11g WiFi and svelte, classy good looks, it was undoubtedly a technical and design feat that only Apple could have pulled off.

No, our gripe was just that we'd seen it all before with the iPhone, and that the first iPod touch was simply an iPhone with bits ripped out. And remember, with the first release of the touch, it wasn't just that it lacked the iPhone's cell connection; you also missed out on built-in speakers, physical volume control button on the side and the ability to add events to the *Calendar* app. The *Mail* application was completely missing, too.

The fun factor

In the months since, a lot has changed. The iPhone has been updated to include 3G and had a price drop that made it substantially cheaper than an iPod touch of the same capacity, but much more importantly, Apple did a lot of work to the software on the touch. First, the event-adding bug in the *Calendar* app was fixed and *Mail* was added. Better still, the launch of the (paid-for) 2.0 firmware opened up the touch to the many hundreds of applications being developed for sale on the App Store. This apparently simple move transformed the touch from being a sophisticated music player to being a platform in its own right.

While Apple's tagline for the second-generation model – 'the funnest iPod ever' – might have language lovers reaching for their shotguns, there's no denying that the sentiment has at least some merit. The list



"Quite how Apple has managed to squeeze speakers into the new iPod touch is frankly beyond us"

of games and utilities you can add to the touch genuinely does add to its appeal. Without really telling anyone so, Apple has effectively created the perfect PDA. It's certainly as competent for core contacts, calendars and email stuff as any Palm, and Apple knows that marketing it as an iPod (that does other stuff) rather than a dull, fusty old PDA, gives it more appeal.

So the iPod touch that the new one replaces isn't the same neutered device that it was when it made its debut. The iPod touch, even before this new model was introduced, was a vibrant and engaging platform, with games taking advantage of the

built-in accelerometer, utilities redefining what this MP3 player was, and videos looking lush on its 3.5-inch screen. The new one, however, is a credible evolution that adds a slew of features whose absence we really have come to lament in the months we've been using the original touch. These are little things, but they help make the package feel that bit less incomplete.

Audio functions

First, the new touch has physical controls for volume on the side, just like the iPhone. This is not just good news for quick volume changes – simply reach into your pocket and click up or

down, where previously you had to fish the iPod out and use the on-screen slider – but it's also great news for third-party applications that use audio. The other thing we love is the integrated speaker. Now don't go getting the wrong idea: it's not for audiophiles. Music sounds decidedly grim, but it's still a welcome addition. Now not only will you be able to get some audio feedback in games and other apps without having to plug in your earphones, but if you like drifting off to an audiobook or podcast – taking advantage of the ability to sleep the iPod after a certain time – the speakers are dandy.

Quite how Apple has managed to squeeze speakers into the new iPod touch's skinny frame anyway is frankly beyond us. It feels incredibly slim, though thanks to an iPhone-style curved back it feels much better in the hand than the straight-edged first generation. The back is all metal, and it wraps round the front in an unbroken line. Looked at front-on, therefore, it's very like the iPhone, shunning the earlier model's black plastic bevelled edges.

Scratch-attracting back

We love the way the new touch looks on the back – rest it face down on a table, and it looks rather like a blob of geometrically-minded mercury come to rest – but that shiny metal back sure ain't scratch-proof. While the brushed metal of the nanos and first-gen iPhones can take the knocks of everyday life without looking beat up, buy a new touch and you really are going to have to invest in a case or just get that OCD treated.

There are a couple of invisible additions, too. Plug in a pair of earphones that include a microphone – the ones that come with the iPhone, for example, or Apple's

THE INTERFACE | Getting a feel for the features

Multi-Touch

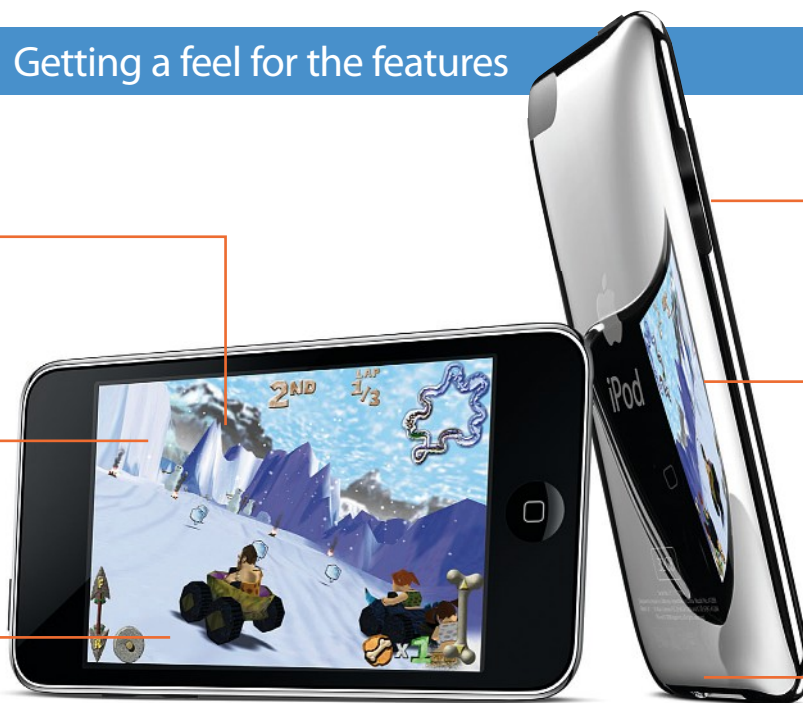
Of course, the best thing about the iPod touch is that huge, Multi-Touch display. The interface really is stunning.

Accelerometer

Not only can this flip the screen to orient *Safari* and photos, but it's also a highly sensitive input mechanism for games.

Games

The hundreds of games and applications on the App Store really add to the touch's appeal.



Volume controls

The ability to change the volume on the new touch without taking it out of your pocket is a very welcome addition.

Curved back

We like how pretty the new back looks, but it scratches easily; a case is pretty much a necessity.

Speaker

The built-in speaker is a much-touted new feature. Granted, it won't do the likes of Verdi any favours, but it's good enough for listening to podcasts and audiobooks. And for annoying other passengers on the bus.

announced-but-not-yet-shipping £19 or luxury £55 pair – and you should be able to pipe audio into the touch. We're intrigued to see what developers will think up when it comes to note-taking or even VoIP applications. Unfortunately we weren't able to test this feature because none of the audio-in-capable apps that we wanted to install would copy across. We assume developers have to tweak their tools to allow them to install on the second-generation iPod touch as well as the iPhone.

And there's one other feature that we didn't – if you'll forgive the pun – put through its paces: Nike+. The system that allows you to slip a transmitter into a special Nike running shoe and have your iPod track progress for you while you train used to require you to plug a little receiver dongle into the iPod it was paired with. Now, though, the iPod touch has this receiver built in. Next issue we'll be giving the whole Nike+ regime a rigorous workout, so we'll report back on how the touch fares then.

Small capacity, high price

There are some things, however, that we don't like. Though the prices have dropped slightly – remaining higher than the subsidised

cost of an iPhone – we're still frustrated that Apple insists on sticking with the 8GB, 16GB and 32GB capacities. Yes, solid-state storage is more reliable

“For our money we'd rather have had a slightly chubbier version that included a 120GB hard disk”

than hard disk, but it's still too expensive for what we deem to be decent capacities. And yes, the iPod touch's size zero frame looks great, but for our money we'd much rather have had the option of a slightly

chubbier version that included a 120GB hard disk. As it is, those who have been accumulating music for a few years will probably still be

forced to buy the iPod classic, and while it's still very lovely, it lacks both the touch's sex appeal and its advanced features such as WiFi, the ability to buy music directly from *iTunes*, *Safari* and, of

course, the huge touchscreen that works so well for movies and all the third-party apps you can add.

Like the new nano and iPhone 3G, the new touch won't charge with devices that use the FireWire standard, which might render some of your accessories obsolete.

It's clear that the iPod touch and iPhone ecosystem is the future, and that the classic is almost dead. We just wish we had the option of an iPod touch that stored more than a measly 32GB of media.

Christopher Phin

THE TOP THREE | Our favourite iPod touch additions

Genius

The new playlist-generating feature (see *iTunes* review, p85) may be a bit hit and miss for some, particularly if your music tastes don't follow the mainstream, but it's a great way to match your mood, and can help you discover some weird gems in your Library.



Volume controls

Seriously, this is a really handy addition; they make it easy to adjust the volume without taking it out of your pocket. Plus, the new built-in speakers consolidate the touch's credentials as an entertainment platform that's good for video, apps and gaming.



Games and apps

True, even owners of the first-generation iPod touches can get this courtesy of a paid upgrade, but it's still a great feature. The iPod touch is an intriguing gaming platform, and the proliferation of timewaster games such as solitaire and sudoku only adds to its mass appeal.



PORTABLE MEDIA PLAYER

Apple iPod nano



£109 (8GB) £149 (16GB) Apple's latest iPod nano has a touch of Genius...

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/464874

KEY SPECS

Colours: Silver, blue, purple, green, orange, yellow, pink, (PRODUCT) RED and black
Capacities: 8GB, 16GB Screen resolution: 320x240 pixels Screen size: 2-inch Quoted battery life: 24 hours (music), 4 hours (video) Dimensions: 90.7x38.7x6.2mm Weight: 36.8g

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Looks fabulous
- + Great prices and capacities
- + Vertical screen works well
- + Accelerometer
- + Accessibility improvements
- No charging over FireWire

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A beautifully evolved music player that should delight everyone; and the colours are gorgeous."

Apple's new fourth-generation iPod nano marks a triumphant return to the traditional vertical candybar format. We confess that despite some initial squeamishness with the design of the immediately preceding 'fatty' iPod nanos, we came to love them well, but somehow this latest generation just feels very, very right. The newly-portrait screen suits the frame perfectly; put it next to a first- or second-generation nano, and the truncated screen of the older model starts to make it look distressingly like a cheap knock-off.

The most striking thing about the new iPod nano line-up is the range of colours. There are nine of them in total and all are available in 8GB and 16GB. They look fantastic lined up together, but best of all they look great on their own, too; the colours are rich and, unlike with the fatty nanos, the coloured aluminium wraps round the entire player in an unbroken sheath.

Thin and awkward

It's the thinnest iPod ever, though that's not necessarily a good thing. True, it's hardly noticeable in a pocket, but for our money the new profile –

like a severely elongated rugby ball – feels a little awkward in our hand and not as 'friendly' as previous generations. The new, large screen follows the contour of the case; it looks great, but it does catch the light in annoying ways, something that's particularly noticeable as you move the nano around to play the new accelerometer-aware game, *Maze*, of which more later. The screen itself is pretty good; it lacks the contrasty bite of the

"The new nano features a brand new feature, an accelerometer, to determine its orientation in space"

iPod touch, but it's certainly good enough for watching music videos, video podcasts or even the odd television programme on a commute. Its portrait orientation means you have to flip it sideways to watch video, but so long as you lock the Click Wheel it's comfortable to hold.

The vertical screen also makes a lot of sense for navigation; where before the nano's two-column, split-screen affair felt a little forced, everything here is clean in a single column. The **Now Playing** screen looks fantastic, with album art filling the top

square and track information in the blank space at the bottom, a layout that also lends itself well to the calendar app, which shows you the full month view in a square with events for highlighted days appearing underneath.

It's not all about steady evolution, however. The new nano features a brand new feature, an accelerometer, to determine its orientation in space. This is currently used to activate **Cover Flow** – allowing

jogger who likes their iPod to accompany them on runs will be happy to hear.

Genius features

Genius, Apple's system that automatically builds musically sympathetic playlists for you based on a single song, is only a click away, and while the underlying algorithms aren't perfect – you're likely to be disappointed if you listen to relatively obscure music – its intelligence should improve as more people use it, and even now it can throw up some great mixes.

The new nano sounds even better than its predecessors, too, though by now our recommendation to upgrade the headphones should come as no surprise.

But one black mark against the new model is that, like the iPhone 3G, it doesn't charge with those docks, speakers and car kits that use the FireWire charging standard, and there's no easy way of knowing what products are affected.

The bottom line, however, is that the new nano is almost perfect. It offers plenty of capacity – the 16GB model costing just £20 more than last year's 8GB model – and it looks all grown up.

Christopher Phin



SOFTWARE MEDIA PLAYER

Apple iTunes 8



£FREE iTunes 8 is new, available and free, so is there any reason you shouldn't install it right now?

We've reviewed *iTunes* countless times before, but Apple has updated it to version 8 to complement the new über-thin iPod touch and the colourful new iPod nanos, so we thought we'd put it through its paces once again. In short, there have been some minor changes, such as the new **Grid** view and **Visualizer**, but the big new feature is the introduction of a **Genius** Sidebar and **Genius** Playlists, so let's start there.

Pure Genius

The **Genius** Sidebar is already open by default when you launch *iTunes* 8, but needs to be activated before it can function. During activation you send details of your music library to Apple, but your confidentiality is assured. The **Genius** Sidebar takes up about a sixth of the *iTunes* window and shows links to tracks for sale on the iTunes Store that you don't already own, and that Apple thinks you may like, based on the track you're currently listening to. All the tracks recommended can be previewed and bought directly from the **Genius** Sidebar meaning you don't have to load up the bloated iTunes Store, which is a relief, but we still found having to wait for all the links to load slightly

"You can also set Genius to create playlists out of the songs you already have in your iTunes library"

effected the smooth running of the program.

While this 'Amazon Recommends'-style hard sell might sound alarming to some, it's easy to turn the **Genius** Sidebar off should you find it too annoying, or the recommendations simply too tempting. If that was all there was to **Genius** then we'd be justifiably underwhelmed at the blatant consumerism, but

iTunes 8's new Grid View of album covers gives you a great new way of browsing your albums that not only looks nice but is functional as well.

it has a second string to its bow – you can also set **Genius** to use its recommendation technology to create playlists out of the songs you already have in your *iTunes* library.

Simply play a song, click the **Genius** button and *iTunes* will create a playlist out of songs that it thinks would go well with your chosen song. It's a great way to rediscover songs you'd forgotten you own. To help make its selections, Apple is relying on the vast army of *iTunes* users whose data it has already sampled. If you like the **Genius** playlist it suggests then you can save it, or click **Refresh**

for a different selection. While Playlist recommendation software isn't an original idea, and there are many plug-in programs for *iTunes* that do essentially the same job, having it integrated within *iTunes* itself means it's a more natural fit, and won't keep breaking every time Apple updates its software.

However, because **Genius** works by knowing what songs

go well together based on other people's tastes, you'll find that it simply doesn't work on the more obscure music tracks in your collection. In theory, the situation should improve as more user data is uploaded to Apple, but we certainly found many tracks in our music collection that **Genius** couldn't deal with.

Grid View

iTunes's 3D **Cover Flow** was always more of an eye-candy feature than anything genuinely useful, but the new **Grid View** in *iTunes* 8 is both beautiful and practical. It's visually very similar to the way events are shown in *iPhoto* '08. The only drawback is it shows up just how many of your albums have missing artwork, and you're going to have to spend ages tracking it all down if you want your music library to look nice.

The final new feature worth a mention is that HD movies are now available through the iTunes Store, whereas previously you had to own an Apple TV to order and download them. The only other changes we could find were that under the hood, Apple has silently removed the

ability to hide the iTunes Store arrows in the track lists, as well as the **Genre** column in **Browser** mode: this was previously possible through **Preferences**, but not any more.

Is *iTunes* 8 worth upgrading to? We think so. Installation was simple and we upgraded a number of Macs in the office without having a single problem. **Genius** is such a great feature you'll wonder how you lived without it, and it will genuinely help you rediscover parts of your music collection you'd effectively 'lost' for years. We even liked the **Genius** Sidebar recommendations that pop up all the time; let's just hope that Apple can get them to load in a bit quicker in a subsequent update.

Graham Barlow

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Read user reviews at
www.techradar.com/468551

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X version 10.4.9 or later, 200MB HD space, Intel, PowerPC G5, G4, or G3 processor (playing HD-quality videos bought on the iTunes Store requires a 2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo or faster processor), 512MB RAM (1GB is required to play HD-quality videos).

FOR AND AGAINST

- + **Genius** is a truly great feature
- + HD movies available on the store
- + **Grid View** more useful than **Cover Flow**
- Recommendations effects performance
- Pressured to buy songs all the time
- **Genius** can't deal with obscure tracks

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Nothing major has changed, but the upgrade to version 8 is free and the **Genius** feature is, well, genius!"

iTunes 8's new **Genius** Sidebar fills with links to tracks you don't own that Apple thinks you'll like.



PORTABLE HARD DISK

Freecom Mobile Drive XXS

£45 A tiny 160GB hard disk with a tiny price... but a big flaw

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Freecom
www.freecom.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/468615

KEY SPECS

Capacity: 160GB (250GB and 320GB also available) Interface: USB 2.0 Dimensions: 109.8x79.5x13.5mm Weight: 155g

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Very cheap
- ⊕ Very compact
- ⊕ Clever SATA-less drive
- ⊕ Bus-powered
- ⊖ Minimal protection
- ⊖ Only a short cable supplied

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A bold, competitive effort, but we'd just be too worried about damaging it and losing data."

We were all set to give this little portable hard disk a glowing review. It's tiny, has a cute black rubbery finish and it's cheap. Unfortunately, it also has a fatal flaw.

The reason it's so small is that it's basically just a bare hard disk wrapped in a slightly kinky, velvety rubber sheath. And unlike any other drive we've seen before, there's not even any space taken up by an interface to convert a hard disk's SATA connection to USB. Instead, this is a special Samsung hard disk where the circuitry for the bridge is built into the drive; it doesn't have a SATA connector, just a mini-USB port. Essentially, this is little bigger than a bare 2.5-inch hard disk. Just the

millimetres-thick rubber case protects the drive, giving it very small overall dimensions.

The problem is, because the case has no rigidity, the delicate drive internals are afforded very little protection. This is unlikely to be a problem when you're carrying it around and it isn't plugged into your computer, but when it's in use and the read/write heads are flicking nanometers above the disk platters, slight pressure on the wrong part of the top surface – even from not picking it up by the edges – was enough in our testing to produce a heart-stopping crunch, presumably caused by the heads hitting the platters. This action can shear off the data-holding platter surface, so it's a real cause for concern.



We like the XXS's rubbery styling, but its lack of rigidity means the drive mechanism is short on protection.

If you're careful with this drive and how you handle it, you could be perfectly happy with it. Even after hours of continuous use, it was still cool to the touch – we'd worried that the rubber would simply insulate the drive and cause it to overheat – and it's

tremendous value; even the 320GB model is only £68.

We'd be happier plumping for a drive from Freecom's excellent ToughDrive range, though. They're more robust and we're big fans of the handy captive cable. **Christopher Phin**

EARPHONES

Shure SE110

£49 Entry-level earphones lack the all-important hook to get you into the music

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Shure
www.shure.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/468902

KEY SPECS

Weight: Approx 70g with cable Cable Length/With Extension: 45cm (136cm) Frequency Range: 22Hz-17.5kHz

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Well priced
- ⊕ Effective sound isolation
- ⊕ Decent clarity and definition
- ⊖ Sound lacks excitement
- ⊖ Cable needs some weight trimmed
- ⊖ Need extension cable in most settings

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The cable is too heavy, the foam earcups hard to replace and the sound lacked sparkle."

Here at MacFormat we test earphones with low-, mid- and high-frequency sounds and live with them for a week to assess how comfortable they are. We change the earbuds around, peak at the spec sheets and then whip the earphones in and out of all manner of things to see how well they're built.

The unique Shure method of fitting the earphones into your ears by twisting the buds down and in, coupled with the spongy earcups, creates a seal that cuts out most ambient noise. They come with a bag of replacement earcups, which are either black foam or rubber flex – both did a good job of achieving sound isolation.

The frequency range of 22Hz-17.5kHz and Balanced

MicroSpeaker gave us a listening experience that was acceptable but lacking in sparkle. The audio was clear and kept its shape at high volumes through both the lows and highs, but paled next to Denon's AHC-751s, or Jay's q-Jays, both of which really bring music alive.

We were also disappointed with the earphones' heavy weight. The root of this problem is that they have a short lead length and so ship with an extension cable, which you need to use if you're listening to your MP3 player more than 30cm from your chin – so pretty much all the time, then. However, it appears little or no effort has been made to keep the plastic cable-housing lightweight;



While the SE110s offer clear sound and a tight seal, the extension cable is a burden.

the join between extension and earcup cable is particularly chunky. The result is that the whole cable drags on your ears and, in our case, caused them to ache after a while.

A third, more minor problem is that the earphone jack is too wide to work with first-generation iPhones.

The price of the SE110 is competitive, but the comfort issues and often bland acoustic display didn't endear them to us. They're not a bad choice as an upgrade on a limited budget, but we recommend saving your money for something more special. **James Ellerbeck**

**DAB HOME HI-FI**

Vita Audio R4

£499 If sound quality and looks were everything then this stereo would be champ

The Vita R4 is a home stereo with Universal Dock for iPods, built-in speakers, DAB radio, CD player and some precision controls including a separate sub bass toggle. It has impressive acoustic abilities, but best of all are its curves and lines, which are an exercise in restrained elegance that makes many an iPod speaker system look plain.

We played music through the speakers using all the inputs. Your options for sources are varied. DAB radio will be a pull for some because of the variety of channels. However, we don't believe DAB's audio quality is quite there yet. We preferred FM radio performance on this unit, which sounds excellent and is easy to tune using the remote.

KEY SPECS

Source: CD player, iPod, USB, Radio (inc DAB), aux RCA input **iPod compatibility:** iPod classic, iPod nano 1st, 2nd, 3rd, iPod touch, iPod 4th, 5th generation
Dimensions: 14.5x45x25.5cm **Weight:** 8kg
Extras: Headphones jack, dock with alarm

We played music files, both MP3 and WMA, from a USB stick docked into the USB port on the front panel, and from iPods and an iPhone. It took a second or two to scan the USB stick, then gave us files to select. It failed to display the metadata accompanying the tracks, so they just appeared as numbers on the LED panel.

The Vita R4 isn't iPhone compatible because there's no GSM shielding to protect against the thud-thud of

incoming calls and network chatter. You can get around this by switching to Airplane Mode on the iPhone and sticking it in the iPod touch cradle. The sound quality while playing files from the Apple players or USB stick can be fantastic, especially if you give the Vita R4 classical or acoustic music to sing about. The underbelly has a reflex bass port and speaker, and with careful adjustment of the bass knob you can thump out low frequencies, too.

The remote is easy to use with its rotary dial and gives total control over the R4 except for bass fiddling, which only has manual controls. You have an RCA output, left and right, and RCA input, left and right. There's no video output,

so no way to relay the video on an iPod to an external display.

The CD tray (internal), iPod docking tray, circular remote control tray and power button all felt weakly cobbled to us. The quality of the plastic isn't impressive and the CD tray and power button wobble in their mounts. The blue LED around the power button annoyed us after a while and, on closer inspection, the walnut veneer isn't terribly well executed.

In our view Vita put all its resources into the speakers and amp and less into the build quality and finish. So, you have a powerful, impressive-sounding box, helped by the wooden surround, but one with a question mark hanging over its life expectancy.
James Ellerbeck

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Vita
www.vitaaudio.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/395079

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Elegant design
- ⊕ Superb acoustic abilities
- ⊕ Wide range of audio sources
- ⊕ Excellent rotary dial remote
- ⊖ Cheap plastic used for trays and buttons
- ⊖ High price

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Super sound to rival any system we've seen, let down by cheap trays and buttons."

IPOD ALARM SPEAKER

Gear4 BlackBox 24/7

£56 A simple, no-frills box that does nothing thrilling

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Gear4
www.gear4.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469056

KEY SPECS

iPod compatibility: iPod touch, video, nano, mini, classic, 4G
Colours: Black
Weight: 1.35kg Dimensions: 27x10x11cm

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Elegant and well built
- ⊕ Inexpensive
- ⊕ Easy to read and operate
- ⊕ Large buttons aid morning snoozing
- ⊖ No GSM shielding
- ⊖ Not for travelling with

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Not bad for the money; it's simple, elegant and just works."

Speakers for the iPod come in all shapes and sizes. One popular format is the iPod clock radio. We have seen these at all price points up to £500. This BlackBox 24/7 is at the other end of the scale and will appeal to people on a budget with little need for higher features like DAB radio, and CD players. It offers a basic, no-frills setup at a decent price.

Gear4 has raised its game in recent times. We particularly like its recent Duo speaker system. Its products seem better built than before and the BlackBox 24/7 is another good box. It's an elegant, slim format that takes up next to no space on a bedside table or shelf, and has big, bright numbers showing you the

time, or FM frequency. The iPod dock is good quality and comes with a rack of trays and support for nearly all iPods (see iPod compatibility in specs). Our one grumble would be the lack of iPhone compatibility, as there is no GSM shielding. At a push, you can drop an iPhone into the iPod touch tray and switch off the iPhone's phone (Airplane Mode) if you want.

Tuning to a radio station is easy. We didn't need the manual. Fine-tuning is tricky as there is no 0.01 KHz increment on the dial, only 0.5KHz. This might become an issue in areas where the radio spectrum is crowded.

A remote comes in the box and it will scroll through the iPod's menus, though the

Large buttons and bright digits are perfect for early morning starts.



tracks are not displayed on the front-facing LED panel. On top are five large buttons, which are perfectly sized for slapping with a poorly aimed hand in the wee hours of the morning.

The sound quality is fine for the money, and reflex bass ports add enough low-end to

give some weight to the sound, but don't expect too much from it.

There is a 2x AA battery option, but this is for power-out to keep the clock correct, rather than to offer a portable radio solution.

James Ellerbeck

SOLID STATE DRIVE

Buffalo MicroStation Portable Silicon Disk

£115 Can solid-state make it externally? Yes, if you've got the cash to spare

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Buffalo Technology
www.buffalotech.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469013

KEY SPECS

32GB capacity; Retractable USB cable; 1.25W power consumption; Turbo USB

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Very light and small
- ⊕ Two year warranty
- ⊕ Very robust
- ⊕ Power efficient
- ⊖ Very expensive
- ⊖ Low capacity for an external drive

VERDICT

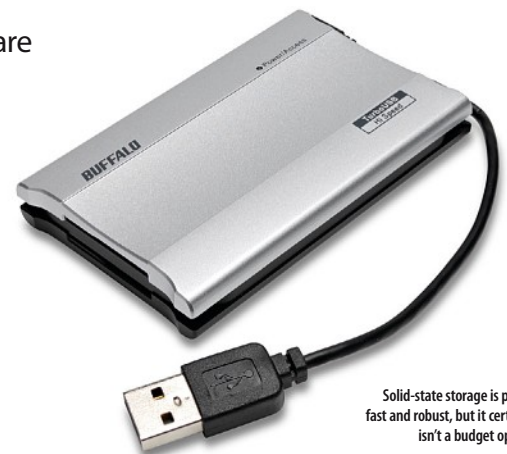
★★★★★

"With a high price and low capacity, you might want to find an alternative for now."

There's little doubt that solid-state drives have a big future, but is it the future? We've seen the optional 64GB solid-state drive on the 1.8GHz MacBook Air (£1,719) of course, but this is the first external unit we've seen. In fact, it's pretty much the first unit anybody's seen. Crucial has previously sold external casings for solid-state external drives, but this is the first ready-to-go drive on the market. Weighing just 60g, Buffalo's so-called Hybrid Portable Silicon Disk is very lightweight, though we'd be a little worried about using it with such a diminutive volume (89x57x14mm). As ever with such early-bird tech there's always a compromise, and here it's in terms of capacity.

Oh, and it'll set you back a fair whack, too. This model costs £115, then the 64GB model £230. Finally, the 100GB drive will set you back a whacking £344. Ouch. However, it is extremely durable – again one of the boons of solid state. And it'll use less power than a standard drive. And because there are no moveable parts, the drive probably won't lose your data if you drop it. Buffalo is clearly confident of its product as it's offering a two-year warranty.

It is fast. In terms of speed, Buffalo has quoted a flat 35MB/s (using its Turbo USB speed-up tech), but we ran *Xbench* and got an uncached random speed test result of 23.67MB/s read and 13.97 as our best uncached write score.



Solid-state storage is plenty fast and robust, but it certainly isn't a budget option.

What you're paying for here is an extremely durable solution, but it can't yet compete with standard hard drives for capacity versus price. In these crazy credit-crunched days where half the outlay for this SSD drive will get you a 160GB portable. That

size of drive now seems normal – small even. Solid-state storage is still very much in the early stages of its life. Nice and fast, though, and sturdy enough that you can throw it in your bag and not worry about it.

Dan Grabham



MINIDV CAMCORDER

Canon HV30

£603 The camcorder equivalent of the emperor's new clothes is virtually identical to its predecessor

We preferred the picture quality from this HV30 (MiniDV tape) compared to the Sony HDR-S11 (hard drive) camcorder we reviewed last month. Both are similarly priced, and offer a similar range of features. Both can import footage straight into *iMovie*. The key difference is the formats. MiniDV is a cassette tape format that records using HDV, which offers better bit rate, meaning less image compression and less unwanted artefacting than a hard drive or solid state drive that uses the AVCHD codec. MiniDV tapes are also switchable and more robust than hard drives.

We still find the film quality of HDV warmer, less digital

KEY SPECS

Type: 1/2.7-inch CMOS Processor: DIGIC DV II System: HDV LCD: 2.7-inch Memory: MiniDV, SD card Dimensions: 8.8x8.2x13.8cm Weight: 0.535 kg Zoom: 10x (optical), 200x (digital)

looking, than AVCHD. AVCHD will catch up soon, because HDV is limited to 1,440x1,080 resolution, while AVCHD isn't.

The HV30 is very easy to use. The menu system is simple and the buttons self-explanatory. It's a chunky camera to hold, and felt less compact than the Sony, mostly because of the bulbous tape case under your palm, but also because of the strap, which is non-breathable, and was sticky on a hot day.

The HV30 is so closely based on last year's award-winning HV20 that if we didn't know better we would wonder if anything, except the colour, had changed at all.

There are some minor improvements, of course; the zoom toggle is more solid and responsive than before, and the LCD has an improved picture quality, though still on the small side. The interface, processor, menu system, lens, size and shape, grip, power system, export options and other features remain intact.

The imaging prowess of the 1/2.7-inch CMOS sensor and DIGIC DV II processor, is superb. This is an old pairing that you can find on the HR10, HV20 and other models stretching back to 2007, and

the HD resolution was correspondingly identical. Image stabilisation is still excellent, even at full zoom. Still shots are superb too.

On a Mac there is no speed benefit for hard drive camcorders. Importing footage from this HV30 was faster than importing from the Sony hard drive model because of the transcoding the AVCHD footage needed.

If you want a very good camcorder, then we recommend the HV30. It has a higher quality image than the latest HDD models at the same price. Better still, shop around for last year's HV20. It is considerably discounted now but virtually identical, so you could pick up a bargain. **James Ellerbeck**

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Canon
www.canon.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/468942

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Superb stills and video
- ⊕ Tried and tested format
- ⊕ Better image quality than HDD models
- ⊕ Faster import than HDD models
- ⊖ Cumbersome to use
- ⊖ Last year's HV20 is essentially identical

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A great example of mature technology that matches equivalently priced HDD models on image quality."

LAPTOP REST

Belkin CushTop

£8 Laptop getting you hot and bothered?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Belkin
www.belkin.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/8679

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The ergonomics aren't perfect, but it's cheap and will be handy for some."

Working with a laptop actually on your lap is ergonomically dubious – hence, perhaps, the shift to 'notebook' as the preferred term for most manufacturers. Your neck is at an uncomfortable angle, your elbows aren't at 90° and the heat from a hard-working laptop isn't good news for a man's fertility.

Hence the Belkin CushTop. Flip it one way and you have a surface for a MacBook-sized laptop, or expose the bigger surface for more meaty 17-inchers.

It's pretty comfortable to use, too, though at least in our test it was just a little too thick: we found ourselves hunching our shoulders slightly to type properly. It does, however, work well when you're sitting up in bed, so if you check your RSS feeds first thing in the morning, or are heading for a stretch of convalescence and want to surf the web in comfort, this could be a great buy for you.

Christopher Phin



IPHONE CASE

Gear4 JumpSuit Grip

£20 Protect your iPhone with a rugged cover

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer: Gear4
URL: www.gear4.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469072

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Good for protection, but the cover brings limits to the iPhone's usability."

S cared of dropping your iPhone and damaging that gorgeous exterior? You could do worse than slipping it into its own stylised superhero suit.

This case is covered in a tyre-like tread so grippy that we reckon it would stick fast to Lewis Hamilton's dashboard.

Once the case is on, most of the functionality is unaffected by the extra protection. There's a good few millimetres of space around the camera lens, so it doesn't get in the way when taking pics. There's also space for accessing the Silent Mode switch, and a large gap in the bottom to access the connector and speakers.

But things go downhill for the volume controls and the Hold button. There are no gaps – just raised bits on the case signalling where to press, and you've got to push quite hard to get them to work. Over the course of a single day we found our fingers getting very tired by this, let alone over a lifetime.

James Ellerbeck



MACBOOK CUSTOMISATION

MacBook Pro Gelaskins

£15 Turn your MacBook Pro into a work of art

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Gelaskin
www.gelaskin.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469066

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A great, simple way to add a bit of individuality to your MacBook Pro."

Gelaskin make a range of artistic and protective skins for iPods and phones, but they also make them for Mac laptops. They're marketed as protective covers, and while they will protect your Mac from surface scratches they're really ways of adding a bit of flair and personality.

Each Gelaskin simply peels off its backing tab like a big sticker and secures itself to the lid of your Mac. They stick well enough and we didn't have any problems with it peeling off during our test. Neither do they damage the surface of your Mac, and can be easily removed if you want to change the look.

Coming in a range of exotic designs, such as Red Robot and Fuzin Raizin, these are skins for people who really want to think differently and throw Apple's measured, considered approach to design out of the window – and add some crazy colours and surrealist abstract art. If that sounds like you then Gelaskin could be just what you're looking for.

Graham Barlow



WASHABLE RODENT

Belkin washable mouse

£15 Its a strange idea, and we're not quite convinced

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Belkin
www.belkin.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469058

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A waterproof mouse, should you ever need one, and also a usable input device."

This year's award in the 'Creating a Solution for a Problem that Doesn't Exist' category has to go to this Belkin Washable Mouse. Have you ever felt the need for a water-resistant mouse that you can wash to keep clean? Let's face it, we find most mice can simply be wiped clean without having to put them under the tap.

As a mouse in its own right, this is not the best Belkin offering we've seen. To make the top water-resistant, instead of a click wheel you get a strokeable strip of plastic over a sensor, creating a kind of track pad tool. This required an unusual amount of dexterity to control and didn't give a great feel.

But worse, just when one hand is scratching your head while you're wondering why on earth this was ever made, your other hand shoots up to smack you on the nose as you realise that the soft, matt, rubber finish of the thing actually collects dirt. Pass the smelling salts, we're out!

James Ellerbeck



Pick up our podcast today

Enjoy MacFormat? Then you'll love our podcast!



MacFormat This Week brings you 30 minutes of news, reviews and features from the world of the Macintosh and iPod. You'll find interviews with key industry figures and MacFormat writers who expand upon their features in the current issue of MacFormat.

PLUS, IT'S TOTALLY FREE!

To subscribe, search the iTunes Store for MacFormat, then hit the Subscribe button – it's as simple as that!

www.deliver2mac.com



Introducing 'Deliver2Mac', an exclusive Mac digital download service. Why spend your time searching for your Mac software on the shop shelves when you can have them today?

Deliver2Mac allows you to create your own account, manage your purchases and deliver them directly to your desktop.

Our selection of games and applications continues to grow.

Visit today and use the special '**MACFORMAT**' code for a **25%** discount on your first order.



OUT NOW
£29.95

Experience the drive of your life as you throw yourself around on and off the track causing fences to shatter, tyre walls explode, water tanks and barrels fly across the track into other cars. With over 5000 destructible objects on each track and 40 deformable pieces on every car sparks are guaranteed to fly increasing the mayhem with every lap!

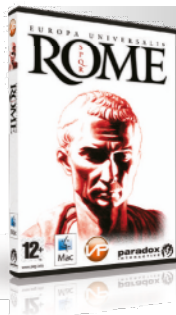


Champ Man 2008 £29.95

Think you can do better? It's your decisions that count: your budget, your buys, your formation, your tactics! Use your skills and knowledge to manage your club the way you feel it should be. All football fans around the world, believe they know more about football than anybody else. Championship Manager is the closest you'll ever come to the highs and lows of real football management.

Dream Pinball 3D £19.95

A great pinball game should not only be amazing from the start, but should continue to be entertaining every time you play it. Dream Pinball 3D has 6 cutting edge tables that are beckoning you to try your luck. There are six different style balls, made of different materials whose ballistic characteristics will affect the very rolling behaviour of each one of them. Add to that incredible acoustics, state of the art particle technology, HDRI and multilayer 3D sound, realistic tilt function and motion blur effects, and you have the best pinball experience.



Europa Universalis Rome £29.95

Experience one of the most defining periods in world history in an experience crafted by the masters of Grand Strategy. The greatest cultural and military civilizations are brought to life through this epic title rife with great strategic and tactical depth. Europa Universalis: Rome covers the time period from the first Punic War to the start of the true Empire. Players will have thousand of gameplay choices ranging from country, culture, provincial and character options making each and every game infinitely customizable and truly unique.

For these and other great games and applications visit **www.deliver2mac.com**



WEBSITE BUILDER

Karelia Software Sandvox 1.5



\$49 (£25) Another entry into the web-building race, but can Sandvox beat iWeb or RapidWeaver?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Karelia Software
www.karelia.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469117

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11 (Mac OS X 10.5/Quartz-Extreme required for some features)

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ User-friendly interface
- ⊕ Decent pre-defined content
- ⊕ First-rate documentation
- ⊕ Great for photo pages
- ⊖ Layouts are somewhat inflexible
- ⊖ Some iffy default templates

VERDICT



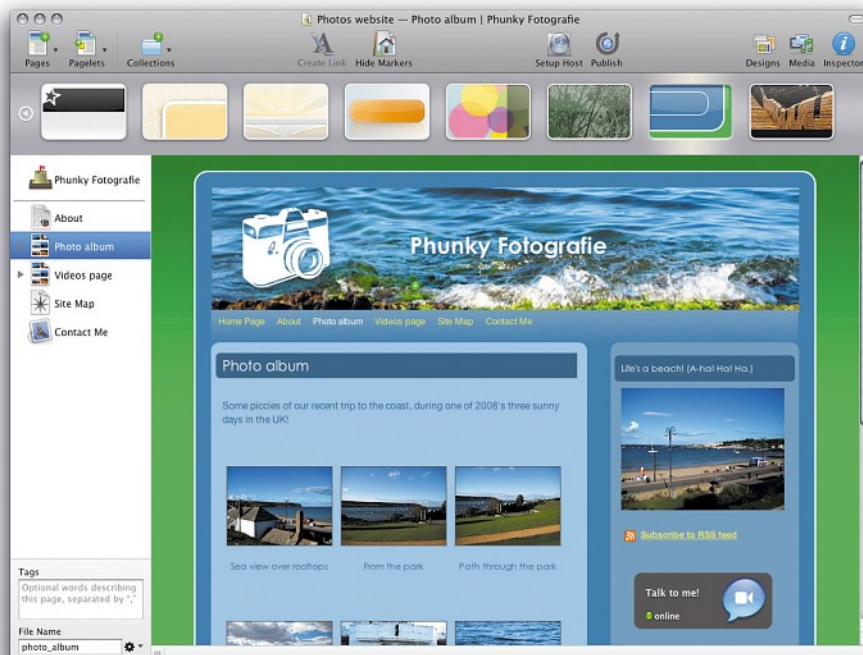
"Highly usable, if restrictive in layout terms. Certainly worth considering for people wanting to get their site online quickly."

Things sometimes come full circle. When we first started creating websites, the early WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) tools were flickering into life – *PageMill*, *FrontPage*, and so on. Unfortunately, they were rubbish, and so for years you either had to hand-code or plump for shockingly expensive software such as *Dreamweaver*. Now, a plethora of Mac-based WYSIWYG tools exists, from Apple's own *iWeb* and professionally oriented *Softpress Freeway*, to our favourite *RapidWeaver*.

Award recognition

Karelia Software's lesser-known *Sandvox* gained a runner-up position in 2007's Apple Design Awards ceremony, and the company boasts that it's a tool for "people who want to spend time developing their lives, not their websites". In practice, this means it's another drag-and-drop effort, based around a selection of built-in templates and widgets.

The templates run the usual gamut from idiosyncratic through to dull, with a reasonable selection being suitable for a wide range of websites. Usefully, graphical banners for many of the designs can be switched using



Creating an online photo album takes a matter of minutes with *Sandvox*'s straightforward interface.

Sandvox's Inspector, although said banners cannot be repositioned, and the portion of your image that's used appears somewhat random. The layouts are heavily locked down – you can't drag-and-drop page components around the place. Instead, you get headings and spacing where *Sandvox* deems

(such as RTF or DOC) could be dumped on to *Sandvox* to get a head-start in adding content.

Along with pre-configured pages, *Sandvox* offers another innovation: Pagelets. These are essentially widgets, designed to live in each page's sidebar. Most Pagelets are geared towards the social web (Digg links, RSS, and so on), although

WebDAV). The sites themselves seem reasonably fast, and although the code isn't as tight as a professional designer might craft, it makes a decent stab at accessibility and web standards. That said, we did notice that with some of *Sandvox*'s templates, odd gaps appear here and there on some pages and when using certain elements.

Overall, we were fairly impressed with *Sandvox*. It's a decent solution for home users (rather than professionals) and beats *iWeb* in several regards. However, while the standard version is nicely affordable, *Sandvox Pro* costs about the same as the superior *RapidWeaver*, and the only real extra is the ability to hack in custom code. For users requiring an extra level of control, Realmac's application is a better bet. Note that our rating is for the standard version – we'd lop off a half-star for the more expensive *Sandvox Pro*.

Craig Grannell

"Using Pagelets is simple, and they're good for rapidly adding common page components"

appropriate. (It is possible to create new themes from scratch, although if you're into designing sites from the ground up this probably isn't the tool for you.)

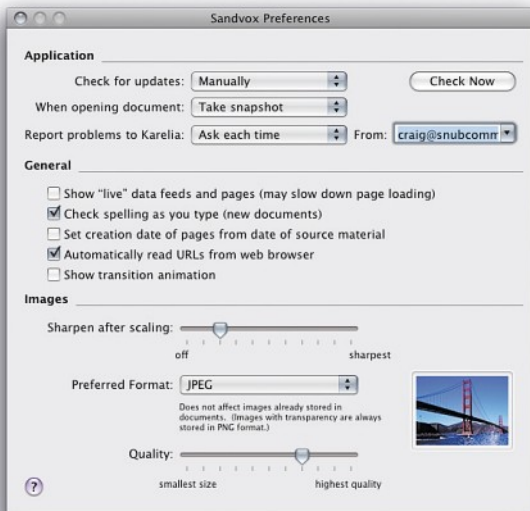
Although these limitations appear restrictive, *Sandvox* is fine for a quick personal homepage, and the application certainly excels when it comes to speed. Photo albums and blogs are simple to deal with, and we were happy to find that text files

text, images and a contact form are also available. Again, using Pagelets is simple, and they're good for rapidly adding common page components.

Publishing pages

Publishing is also pretty straightforward. A well-designed sheet drops when **Setup Host** is clicked, and once you're done adding details, the **Publish** button uploads everything to your web space (via FTP or

Sandvox's preferences appear simple, and for some people that's a big advantage.



iDISK COMPETITOR

iDrive for Mac

£FREE There's a new iDisk rival on the scene, but how does it compare?

As internet connections have sped up and data transfers become more secure and reliable, so an industry has built up offering online data storage on remote servers. *iDrive for Mac* is one such offering. It adds to the basic storage service by bundling a software client for your Mac that manages your backup requirements by setting things like a backup schedule and targeting which files to save.

There are two flavours of *iDrive for Mac*: Basic and Pro. With the Basic package you get the local client and 2GB of storage for free. The Pro packages start from \$5 (£2.50) a month and jumps your storage space to 150GB. Further packages increase the storage amount and cost with top-end business packages available up to 500GB.

First Mac outing

The company behind iDrive, Pro Softnet, has been providing similar packages to Windows users for a while, though this is its first Mac offering. All data transfers are done under the umbrella of 128-bit SSL encryption during transmission and 256-bit encryption during storage. There are advantages and disadvantages to backing up your data to online remote servers instead of local drives. The advantages centre around security and remote access. If your data is away from your house or office then your sharing options for other Macs – perhaps owned by colleagues or, indeed, yourself – open up nicely. Also, should your Desktop hard disk fail, not an uncommon occurrence, you know that somewhere there is a professionally run data bank covering your back.

Where iDrive triumphs is the clean, very Mac OS X looking client. It is a faultless display and very easy to use. This is the kind of work that wins Apple

Design Awards, in fact, when its window was on-screen next to iTunes, a lazy mouse click mistakes one for the other.

Inside iDrive, your HD is mapped in a Finder-like list of folders with checkboxes besides them. Listed in the left-hand panel are your folders, which have expanding drop arrows letting you drill down into the folder contents. You can select whole folders to back or individual files. An indicator bar along the

“Should your Desktop hard disk fail, you know there is a professionally run data bank covering your back”

bottom of the client shows you how much storage is available, and a right-hand panel shows you what's backed up and currently sitting in your iDrive in more detail.

Backing up is a speedy process: the first backup took quite a while, but future backups are all incremental. So as changes are made, they are backed up as you go, rather than having to perform a full

rewrite, saving you a lot of time. It is a superbly simple tool to use, and there were no lock-ins in the structure of the app that push you toward grabbing more storage at a higher monthly rate. Our music folder was the default folder to be backed up, but we changed this in the settings so it didn't eat up the 2GB space by itself.

Syncing and integration

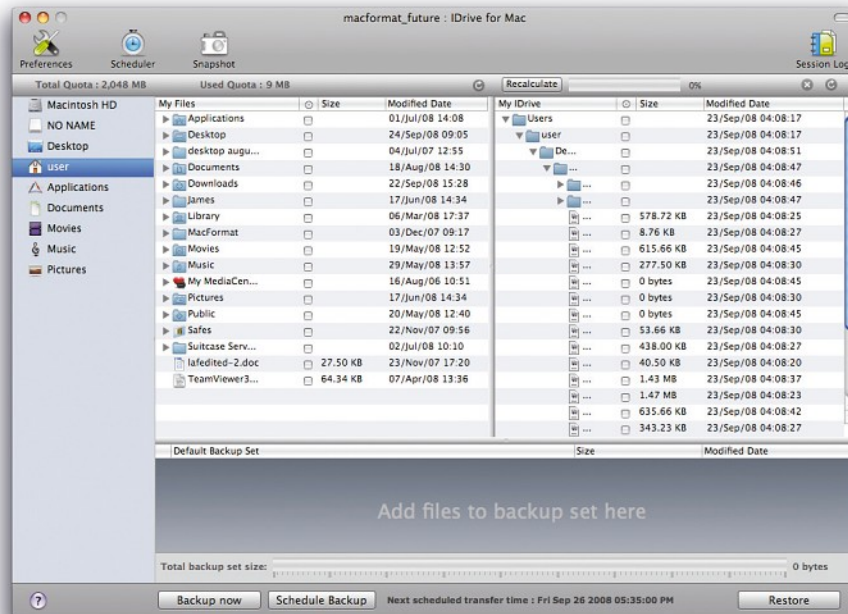
Two questions should be in your mind: how is this different

to a MobileMe's iDisk; and what are the syncing options for additional Macs and the iPhone and iPod touch. On the first point, iDrive gives you less integration than an iDisk with OS X. *iDrive for Mac* isn't an Apple product, so there isn't the seamless blending with the *iLife* suite, and you can't drop files into your iDrive inside a Finder window. On the second point, sadly there are

no syncing options at all. iDrive is simply a straightforward backup solution. We were also a little annoyed to find iDrive does not offer cross operating system compatibility between Windows and Mac. This means you will need a separate iDrive account for any Windows machines you have.

On the whole though, iDrive impressed us with its elegance and ease. As a simple backup solution, without the added sophistication of syncing data, it works very well. We definitely recommend that you give the free 2GB package a spin to see if it fits your needs.

James Ellerbeck



iDrive for Mac, a very Apple-like client, gives you precise control over your backup schedule when using iDrive.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Pro Softnet
www.idrive.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469137

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 20MB of local disk space for caching

FOR AND AGAINST

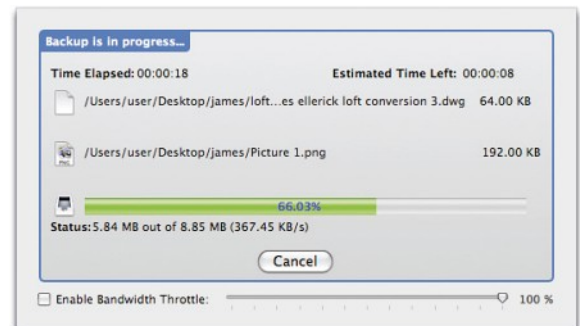
- + Wonderfully crafted local client
- + Precise file management
- + Fast transfers
- + Remote access to data
- No integration with *iLife* apps
- No additional syncing options

VERDICT

★★★★★

“A very elegant backup solution that offers secure and remote data storage though lacks the full OS X integration of iDisk.”

This green progress bar shows you how long you've got to wait for your backup to finish.



FILE SYNC UTILITY

Sharpcast SugarSync



From \$25 (£13) Keep your files in sync across platforms, even on your iPhone

CONTACT INFO

Developer Sharpcast
www.sugarsync.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469148

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later, or 32-bit versions of Windows XP or Vista, 512MB RAM, 500MB disk space, Internet Explorer 7.0, Firefox 2.0, or Safari 2.0 or better

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Access files even when Mac is off
- + Web access
- + Very fast after initial upload
- + Email link to files from web and iPhone
- No file versioning
- No entry-level free option

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A very rich service that keeps your documents in sync across Mac, PC and even iPhone."

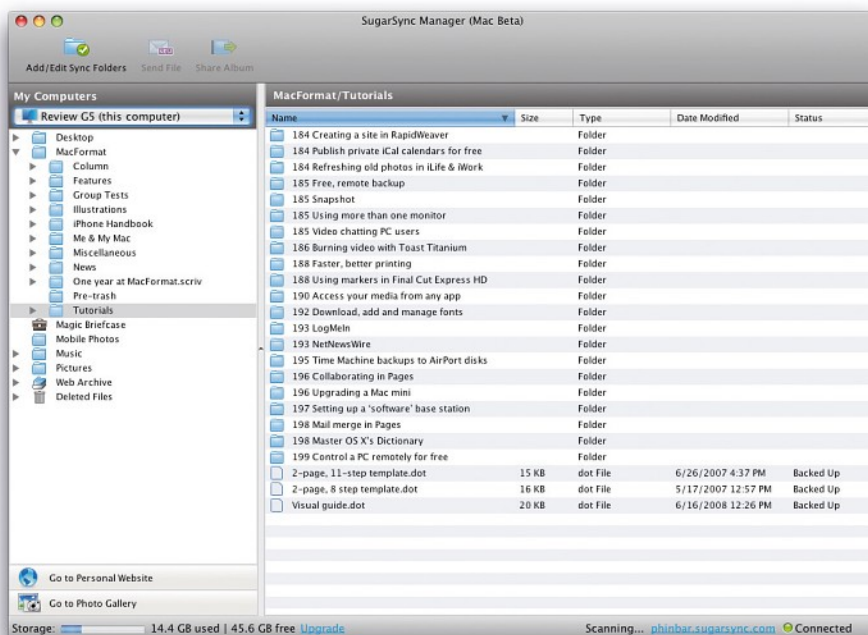
Ten years ago, even owning one computer was still a bit of a novelty. These days, however, many of us juggle multiple desktops and laptops, and have computers at work, in the living room, in studies and in schools. The problem is that, at the crucial moment, you're always going to find that the file you really want is on another computer, and manual solutions are clunky.

Staying in sync

And that's why we were excited about putting *SugarSync* through its paces. The basic idea is very simple: you sign up for a plan that gives you a certain amount of space on *SugarSync*'s servers, install the *SugarSync Manager* on the computers you want to have in sync, then tell it what files and folders you want to share. They're uploaded to the servers (the transfer's secured over SSL, and the files are encrypted with 128-bit AES) and the system manages revisions to the files to ensure that the file list you see on one computer is replicated exactly on the other.

Cross-platform

Here's the clever part: it works on both Mac and PC, so if you're forced to use a Windows box at work, say, but have a Mac running at home, you can use *SugarSync* to keep your documents folder in sync between the two, optionally mapping ~/Documents on the Mac to the Documents folder on Windows, for example. And remember: what's not happening here is that your files are being sent from one hard disk to the other directly; everything's also stored on the servers. This means that you can also access your stuff from any web browser anywhere in the world; when you sign up, you get a personalised subdomain – **macformat.sugarsync.com**, for example –



The manager also gives you access to the Magic Briefcase – files that will sync – and Web Archive for files that will only be stored online.

that you can visit to get access to all the files you've chosen to sync. Let's spell it out: you'll be able to access your files from anywhere in the world even if your Mac is switched off. We'd like to see versioning support, mind you.

Better still, the company has produced a client for the iPhone and iPod touch that ties into the service as well. The files aren't downloaded to your iPhone per se; it's essentially an iPhone-friendly view to the files on the server, and so can

you tell it what email address you want to send the file to and it sends a note that contains a link to that file so the recipient can simply click and download.

Online galleries

The only annoyance here is that the system uses the address book on the *SugarSync* servers, not the one on your iPhone. Yes, you can import your contacts, but it's a less-than-elegant solution. On a good note, it does some clever

for the smaller screen. Music tracks that aren't hampered by DRM can be streamed, too, on the web interface; it's a dumb file-and-folder system with no support for parsing your XML-based playlist files for *iTunes*, but it's nice to have the option.

Convenient and reliable

We are, as you can probably tell, impressed. Changes are propagated between Macs and PCs with only a few seconds' delay for small files, and while the initial upload can be slow – the speed is actually throttled so as not to monopolise your connection, though a quick tinker detailed on the help site can remove this – it's easy, convenient and, in our testing at least, reliable. The *SugarSync Manager* feels a little un-Mac-like, but it seems to behave itself, only eating up processor cycles during an initial file scan. It's not quite a bargain, but it made our lives much simpler; the iPhone access is the icing on the cake. It's a boon for business users. **Christopher Phin**

"You'll be able to access your files from anywhere in the world, even when your Mac is switched off."

be a little sluggish to navigate. You can open and view some file types – Word files worked fine for us, though RTFs didn't – but even those that you can't view can be emailed. Cleverly, the system doesn't try to attach the file to an email and send it using the iPhone's own mail client. As with emailing files from the web interface,

stuff with pictures and music that you sync, though. Folders full of images can be viewed online in special galleries – without you lifting a finger to create them yourself – and you can share them with others. Visit these galleries on an iPhone or any other web-capable mobile and you should get a gallery optimised

The iPhone app lets you navigate the contents of your synced computers, and email links to files directly from the server.



2D DRAFTING TOOL

TurboCAD Designer 2D

£50 Puts the tools in your hand but not the training to use them

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer: Avanquest
www.Avanquest.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469200

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or later, 1GB RAM

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Inexpensive
- ⊕ Generous amount of sample layouts
- ⊕ Good customer support
- ⊖ Poorly pixelated tools and palettes
- ⊖ Long learning curve
- ⊖ Failed to open our .DWG files

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This is design software for the dedicated. Don't expect particularly speedy results."

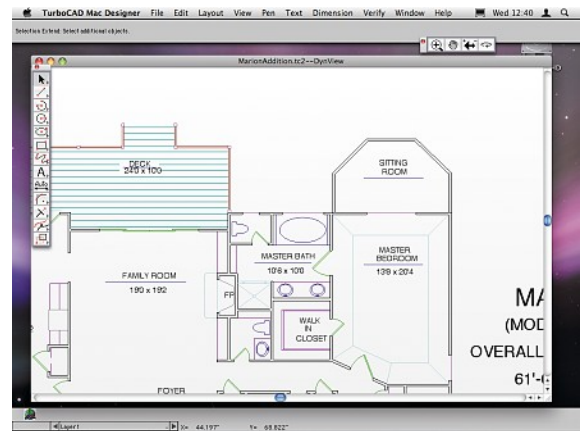
TurboCAD is a piece of software that attempts to straddle the great divide between your current design skills and the skills of a design professional. Armed with TurboCAD, you can design practically anything in a 2D plane. Models for products, or hobbies, or even master plans for building work. TurboCAD doesn't give you the structural engineering skills to make your sketches workable, but enables you to express your ideas in industry-standard terms.

Key features include 7,000 2D symbols that can be dropped onto plans, like doors, windows and construction points. 500 sample floor plans come in the box. You also get a complete set of drafting tools including line, arc, curve,

ellipse and dimensioning tools. We didn't like the clunky palettes that the tools sit in; they reminded us of Windows coding, but we felt our way around and managed to knock up some basic plans.

It's clear that you will need to give TurboCAD generous helpings of time if you hope to master it completely.

The file conversion tools were a big draw for us. An architect had already designed a loft extension for us, using VectorWorks and AutoCAD, that was ready to submit for permission. We wanted software that could handle the .DWG files, which TurboCAD claimed to be able to do, but in fact we found it couldn't open them. It suggested we bought a new version of AutoCAD



TurboCAD allows you to create detailed designs as starting points for construction projects.

(£1,000), and presumably a PC to run it on.

With time and forethought, TurboCAD can help you create designs as starting points for

more in-depth planning. Don't expect fast results though, and prepare for Windows-esque tool palettes.

James Ellerbeck

NUMBER CRUNCHER

KashFlow

£16 per month Popular finance app adds tight integration to online transactions

CONTACT INFO

Developer KashFlow
www.kashflow.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/33087

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac or PC, Safari or other browser

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Web-based
- ⊕ Strong eBay/PayPal integration
- ⊕ Clear report generation
- ⊕ Can accept card payments directly
- ⊖ Needs more flexible invoice tools
- ⊖ No vCard support

VERDICT

★★★★★

"KashFlow's efficient eBay/PayPal handling lends it well to the online market."

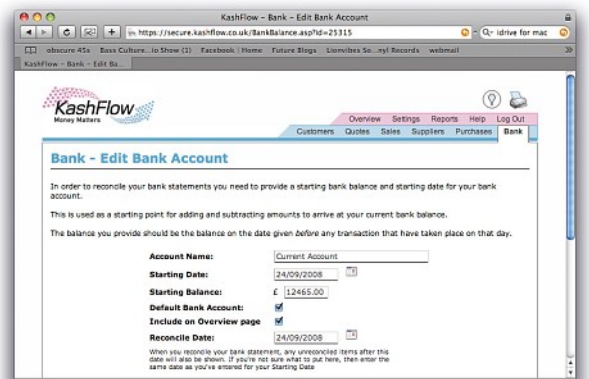
Plenty of Mac users are freelancers, and plenty more make money on online auction sites such as eBay. KashFlow is one of many personal accountancy products that can help you keep track of invoices, payment and tax requirements from within one package.

We reviewed the software last year, noting that its claim to be unique in the market was undone by the presence of MoneyWorks and MYOB's entry-level offerings. We also commented on the benefits of using a UK-based accountancy package, with all the sterling sums built in and understanding of UK tax law.

In the intervening year, KashFlow has boosted its income-tracking features,

eBay/PayPal integration, and handling of digital bank statements. You can now generate Unpaid Invoice Reports in one easy to view page, which include all correspondence with the client. This syncs with other correspondence features, including email reminder letters to buyers, and also logs of sent emails. It now has great eBay and PayPal integration, too, and will automatically record payments and fees paid. You can also use KashFlow to accept credit card payments, if you have a merchant account.

KashFlow is web-based, and can be accessed from any computer, Mac or PC. You can share all information with an accountant without printing a



KashFlow works effectively with statements from online banking services.

report; send them your login details and let them create the reports they need.

We would like to see the invoice generation side of the app develop more creative graphics abilities, but this is a

minor point. It's the online income tracking and instant PayPal integration that appeals to us. Budding online merchants should definitely give KashFlow a whirl.

James Ellerbeck

ONE-WINDOW WEB DEVELOPMENT TOOL

Panic Coda 1.5

Mac
FORMAT
On the
disc

\$99 (£50) Will this update to Panic's all-in-one web design app impress our resident coder?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Panic
www.panic.com/coda
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469210

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4+

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Usable, beautiful interface
- ⊕ Fantastic workflow features
- ⊕ Improved clippings
- ⊕ Excellent Find and Replace
- ⊖ No code-folding
- ⊖ No file comparison

VERDICT

★★★★★
"Tantalisingly close to perfection. We await Coda 1.6 with bated breath."

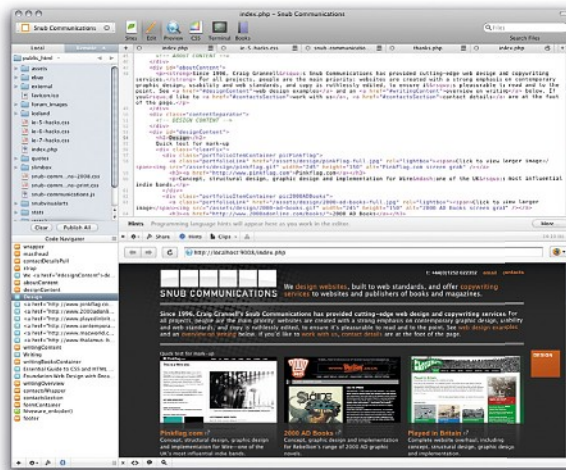
A year back, we were critical of *Coda*, a single-window application for web developers. We deemed it lacking for professionals, due to its mediocre editing toolset and sluggish performance. Clearly someone was listening, because the changes to *Coda* 1.5 turn the application into an entirely different beast.

Long-time fans will be relieved to hear that the intuitive interface remains largely unchanged. *Coda* still integrates a site manager, an FTP client, a code editor, menu-based CSS tools, a website preview and *Terminal*, and the main pane can be split horizontally or vertically.

What has changed is that the app feels significantly faster than version 1.0, while

using the Edit pane is a much improved experience. It's still not perfect – key-bindings to HTML elements remain absent, as does code-folding – but the enhanced Clips window now enables clips to be grouped into categories, and tab triggers in tandem with *Coda*'s already impressive auto-complete ensure that rapid hand-coding is straightforward. We're also happy to see mixed-syntax modes implemented, ensuring accurate code colouring when one language is nested in another.

Elsewhere, changes vary from the major (source control via *Subversion*, and multi-file Search and Replace) to the minor (tab status icons that detail whether a file is local or remote), and they all add up to



The improved *Coda* is now dangerously close to grabbing a MacFormat Choice Award.

make *Coda* the app it should have been when first released. It won't quite replace all your existing tools, but *Coda* will

provide a streamlined and efficient environment for the bulk of your work.
Craig Grannell

HTML AND TEXT EDITOR

Bare Bones Software BBEdit 9

Mac
FORMAT
On the
disc

\$125 (£63) Can the king of Mac text editors cling onto its throne? Read on to find out...

CONTACT INFO

Developer Bare Bones Software
www.barebones.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/469263

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4+

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Unsurpassed search capabilities
- ⊕ Enhanced project features
- ⊕ Excellent code-folding
- ⊕ Generally fast and efficient
- ⊖ Inconsistent auto-complete
- ⊖ Starting to feel dated

VERDICT

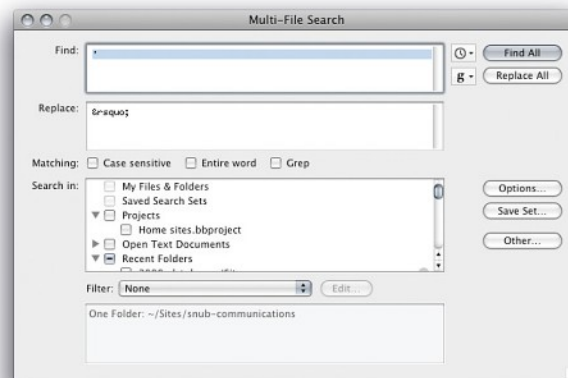
★★★★★
"Great for programmers and improved for writers, but web designers new to Macs should look elsewhere."

Although it long ago ditched its original aim of being a bare-bones text editor, *BBEdit* – which has been around in some form or other for 17 years – is still championed as an ideal product for Mac users seeking speed and efficiency when writing, programming or hacking together websites.

Version 9 enjoys a raft of refinements and a handful of new features. One of these is so major (and, frankly, so long overdue) that it immediately comes to the fore: non-modal windows for searching. If you're scratching your head, you've clearly not used *BBEdit*, but believe us, this feature made us whoop with delight. Essentially, it makes the search window dialogs independent,

like standard floating windows, meaning you can work searches and edit your document at once, or perform multiple searches simultaneously without being locked out of your document. Coupled with *BBEdit*'s already excellent search capabilities, this new feature alone makes the upgrade essential for existing users.

Elsewhere, workflow has also been smoothed and the ability to edit in browser and results windows is welcome. Sadly, we were less impressed with the text-completion, which seems awkward and less accurate than similar features in *BBEdit*'s contemporaries. However, the fact that it offers words rather than just code might tempt writers, and



BBEdit 9's new projects and massively improved search should engage long-time users.

BBEdit's new document stats, providing live word, character and line counts, certainly will.

Whether web designers will stick with *BBEdit* remains to be seen. For this task, we'd likely recommend *TextMate* or *Coda*,

against either of which *BBEdit* feels like it's playing catch-up. But for programmers and long-time users, this upgrade amounts to a no-brainer, especially at the low price.
Craig Grannell

Sold out!

**ISSUE 194** May 2008**Essential Mac health check**

MacBook vs MacBook Air
Easy DTP in Office 2008
Back up without Time Machine
Enhance Leopard's Quick Look
Connect Macs and PCs together
Six 32-inch LCD TVs rounded up

On the DVD

Captain FTP 5.2: Upload files to the web
KavaTunes 1.9: Web jukebox for iTunes
WebCopier 2.0: Browse websites offline
Plus: Portuguese lessons, demos & more

**ISSUE 195** June 2008**OS X secrets revealed**

The truth about Apple TV
Fix photos in Aperture
Get .Mac for less
Back up your data wirelessly
The future of the iPhone
Security software put to the test

On the DVD

MacJournal 3.3: Write blogs and journals
NetFinder 2.3.3: All your FTP needs
WebDesign 2.9.6: Easy web editor
Plus: Chinese lessons, demos & more

**ISSUE 196** Summer 2008**iPod and iTunes masterclass**

Get more from Pages
Add RAM to a Mac mini
Enter the world of Hackintosh
We investigate data recovery labs
Give your Mac a makeover
Six external hard drives tested

On the DVD

Narrator 1.14: Text-to-speech tool
TouchCopy 2.5: Back up your iPod's data
PhotoAccute Studio 2.70: Enhance pics
Plus: Dutch lessons, demos & more

**ISSUE 197** July 2008**The ultimate Mac survival guide**

Save hundreds by buying refurbished
Get more from iWork '08
Use a Mac as a base station
Uninstall apps from your Mac
Brand new iMac revealed
Sub-£150 compact cameras tested

On the DVD

Citra FX 2.0: Manipulate images
skEdit: Text editor for web developers
TimeSlice 2.8: Timing and billing app
Plus: Japanese lessons, demos & more

**ISSUE 198** August 2008**iLife Expert**

Get free antivirus protection
Tips for all the Office apps
Mail merge using Pages
Photoshop tips and tricks
iPhone 3G report
Email clients Group Test

On the DVD

Stomp 1.3: Compress video for email
Spectasia 3: 3D control interface
Artist's Butler 2.8: Art studio manager
Plus: Widgets, video tutorials & more

**ISSUE 199** September 2008**Connect your Mac**

32 great iPhone apps
Mac OS X timesavers
AppleCare investigated
Make a website in a weekend
Get creative with photos
Financial software rated

On the DVD

BitVice Lite 1.8: Compress video
Dream Capture 1: Record video
ExactScan 1.8.5: Digitise documents
Plus: Games, video tutorials & more

Back issues

Missed a copy of MacFormat? Order a back issue now, but hurry – stock is limited!

You've only just missed...

Issue 200 – October 2008

200 unmissable Mac tips

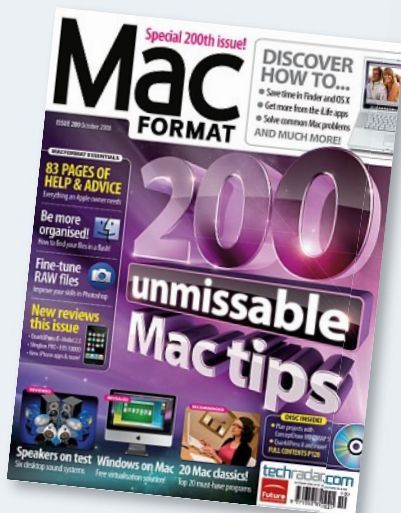
Get more from your Mac and iLife

Plus...

- Happy birthday, MacFormat!
- 20 Mac classics
- Fine-tune RAW files
- Find your files in a flash
- Set up multiple displays
- Desktop speakers tried and tested

On the DVD

ConceptDraw MINDMAP: Organise your thoughts
AppDelete 1.1.1: Remove software safely
TextSpeech Pro Basic 1.5: Make your Mac speak
Plus: Learn Russian, video tutorials, games & more!



To subscribe to MacFormat now, go to www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

To order back issues telephone **+44 (0)870 837 4773**
or go to **www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk**

Larger, better, faster, smarter. More RAM, bigger hard drives, guaranteed compatibility - upgrade today with MacUpgrades.

Mac Pro



NEW LOWER PRICES

Memory Upgrades

Early MacPro (Pre Jan08)

Kingston 2GB (2 x 1GB) Kit 667MHz £68.61 + Vat
Kingston 4GB (2 x 2GB) Kit 667MHz £97.92 + Vat
Kingston 8GB (4x 2GB) Kit 667MHz £184.23 + Vat
Kingston 16GB (8 x 2GB) Kit 667MHz £356.84 + Vat

New MacPro (Post Jan08)

Kingston 2GB (2 x 1GB) Kit 800MHz £73.31 + Vat
Kingston 4GB (2 x 2GB) Kit 800MHz £110.92 + Vat
Kingston 8GB (2 x 4GB) Kit 800MHz £381.94 + Vat
Kingston 16GB (8 x 2GB) Kit 800MHz £404.23 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

NEW LOWER PRICES

Hitachi 500GB 16MB cache £51.15 + Vat
Seagate 750GB 16MB cache £92.77 + Vat
Hitachi 1TB 32MB cache £121.50 + Vat

iBook G4 / PowerBook G4



Memory Upgrades

Kingston 1GB SODIMM £43.83+ Vat
Kingston 512MB SODIMM £22.72 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

NEW LOWER PRICES

Seagate 5400RPM 120GB £38.00 + Vat
Hitachi 5400RPM 120GB £37.25 + Vat
Seagate 5400RPM 160GB £43.39 + Vat
West Dig 5400RPM 250GB £64.21 + Vat

MacBook & MacBook Pro



Memory Upgrades

Kingston 1GB PC5300 SODIMM £16.67 + Vat
Kingston 2GB PC5300 SODIMM £28.45 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

Macbook & Macbook Pro 15/17

NEW LOWER PRICES

Seagate Momentus 5400RPM 160GB £45.60 + Vat
Western Digital 5400RPM 250GB £54.32 + Vat
Western Digital 5400RPM 320GB £71.12 + Vat
Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 250GB £67.58 + Vat
Seagate Momentus 7200RPM 320GB £80.65 + Vat

Macbook Pro 17 ONLY

Hitachi 400GB 5400RPM 8MB £146.93 + Vat
Hitachi 500GB 5400RPM 8MB £159.23 + Vat

iMac G5 / Intel iMac



Memory Upgrades

Kingston iMac Intel 1GB £16.67 + Vat
Kingston iMac Intel 2GB £28.45 + Vat
Kingston iMac G5 (iSight) 2GB £27.63 + Vat
Kingston iMac G5 1GB £27.58 + Vat

Internal Hard Drives

NEW LOWER PRICES

Hitachi 500GB 16MB cache £51.15 + Vat
Seagate 750GB 16MB cache £92.77 + Vat
Hitachi 1TB 32MB cache £121.50 + Vat

MACFORMAT READER OFFER

**FREE delivery on
all orders over
£50. Simply enter
MF1128 at the
checkout.**



Next issue... **Clean up your Mac**

How to reclaim space and put a
spring back in your Mac's step

Multi-function Devices tested

Combined scanner, printer and copying
devices lined up for a rigorous workout

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Master Leopard's Time Machine
- Make a great website in iWeb
- Customise menus in iDVD

ALL THIS & MUCH MORE!

*Contents subject to change

Mac
FORMAT
ON SALE
Wednesday
12 November
2008

iPhone apps

Mark Sparrow picks out the very best software for the iPhone and iPod touch

SNIPPETS

Apple rejects Podcaster app



Apple has been severely criticised for rejecting an application from the App Store because it duplicates functionality offered by iTunes. The criticism is levelled at Apple not for its reasoning for rejecting this app, or any of the others that we know about, but simply because Podcaster (www.nextdayoff.com) appears to comply with all of Apple's app guidelines.

EA hits the iPhone



EA has announced a slew of games for the iPhone and iPod touch, and while we've been impressed by the efforts of the indie developers, it's reassuring to see such a big name put so much R&D clout behind the iPhone OS. *Yahzee Adventures*, *EA Mini Golf*, *Lemonade Tycoon*, *Mahjong*, *Monopoly: Here & Now The World Edition*, *SimCity*, *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 09*, *Need for Speed Undercover*, and *The Sims 3* have all been confirmed.

IPHONE APP OF THE MONTH

Sol Free Solitaire



£FREE Few of us can resist a bargain, and what's better than free?

Though we admire the sheer comprehensiveness of *Mondo Solitaire*, *Sol Free* is an incredibly slick implementation of solitaire on the iPhone and it's just been updated to include five games. You can, if you're a real Solitaire nut, buy the paid-for version with its almost endless variations of Solitaire games, but you don't have to.

So let's see what the deal is here. Firstly there's the choice between *Baker's Game*, *Demon*, *Klondike Deal 1*, *Klondike Deal 3* and *Spiderette*. Confused by those? Don't be! There are easy rules built into each type

game where you build up stacks of alternate coloured suits and then transfer them to foundations starting with an Ace and building all the way up to the Kings in separate suits. Got that?

The cards are displayed in an easy-to-see format and you can transfer cards to their foundations with a simple double tap of your finger. Too lazy to do that? Press the **Auto** button and have *Sol Free* do it for you.

The program keeps track of your stats, telling you how long it took you to solve the game and in how many moves. You can switch

"There's simply no better way to idle away a few hours of your time than by playing cards on your iPhone"

of Solitaire so you can quickly acquaint yourself with the way the game is played. Still confused? Click on the rules and all is clearly explained. And we really do encourage you to try the other games – get yourself out of your comfort zone with *Klondike*, for example. Best of all, each game you play gets saved when you switch out of it, so you could have all five games on the go at once and just toggle between them.

For those of us who ever whiled away half a lifetime on a Windows PC, *Klondike Deal 1* will be fairly familiar. It's the classic Solitaire

games any time you like and your present game will be frozen. Want to move from *Klondike* to *Spiderette* and keep your game intact to return to later? No problem.

There's simply no better way to idle away a few hours of your time than by playing cards on your iPhone, and since *Sol Free* is, if you'll excuse the repetition, free, there's no reason not to install it on your iPhone or iPod touch to entertain you in a doctor's surgery or board meeting. That it's beautifully implemented and comes with rich, easy-to-read graphics is simply the icing on the cake.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"Great value, great fun and all completely for free. Can you ask for any more? The most fun you can have on your own... with an iPhone!"

IMAGE EDITOR

Face Melter

£1.19 Multi-Touch meets Kai's Power Goo

Go on! Take a picture of someone's face and shake it about a bit. Mess it up and stretch it out of shape using your finger to do the distorting on the face of your iPhone. It's wicked and naughty but it's just so much fun. Make the boss look even more ugly or give your loved one some bee-sting lips. Just do silly things. When you've finished, save the results or undo your mischief with a quick shake of your iPhone. It offers morphing movies of your transformations, too, and can load images from your iPhone's library – a boon for the owners of the camera-less iPod touch.

This isn't a must-have app. It won't improve your productivity or save you money. It will, however, make everyone who tries it smile, and what's more, it's a great demonstration of the power of the iPhone's superb interface.


VERDICT

★★★★★

"Buy it! You know you want to. It'll even make you enjoy using the iPhone's dreadful camera."

SIDE-SCROLLING GAME

SolarQuest

£1.79 Strap yourself in for a rough landing

Could you pilot a spacecraft through 3D celestial challenges across three levels of difficulty? You'll need agility, as *SolarQuest's* controls are pretty crude.

As you crash headlong through space, you can collect three types of pickup to assist you. Your spaceship has shields to protect you and there are three lives. Not as many as a cat but better than a human.

Steering by wiggling your iPhone isn't easy and there's some horrid thrash music to accompany your efforts while the iPhone's vibrator also kicks in when you hit something.

There are a few bugs in this program because operation is neither smooth nor fluid. But hey, it's bottom dollar so if you like the cut and thrust of intergalactic antics, this could be a way for you to while away an hour.


VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's clumsy, crude and jerky. But if you like clunky space games, it's perfect."

FILE STORAGE

DataCase

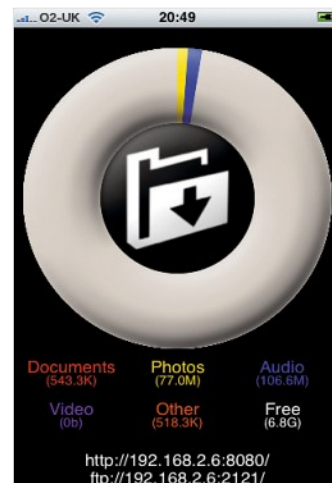
£3.99 Turn your iPhone into a wireless drive

Storing data on a USB stick is one solution to keeping your files with you, but what if you want to read your documents or browse your photos on the move?

DataCase from Veiosoft provides the perfect solution. It turns your iPhone into a wireless storage device where you can upload documents, photos, sound files and PDFs. Not only is it an easy way to replace a USB stick, it means you can look at your files and read them, too.

Using *DataCase* is simple. Fire it up and it appears on your Mac's *Finder* as a Shared Drive. *DataCase* also provides you with an HTTP and FTP address for your iPhone so you can access files from any browser.

You can keep tabs on your data usage thanks to a large ring icon, and it displays the different types of file on your iPhone graphically. You can easily filter the files on your iPhone by type, too.


VERDICT

★★★★★

"A memory stick might be cheaper, but this is a handy way to transfer and view files."

PHYSICS GAME

Enigmo

£2.99 Have fun while learning physics... honestly!

Catch a falling droplet, put it in a canister... Hmm, doesn't sound quite right. But hey, this isn't a game for oldies, this is fun for kids and a physics lesson. Use bumpers, sliders, sponges and accelerators to move water, oil and lava from a dripping vessel to another container. The physics behaviour is superb, and you can spin your constructions round in full 3D to see where your liquids are actually going.

You earn points and bonuses as you go along, though if you're not a natural gamer you might struggle – the iPhone's screen starts to get a little cramped for manipulating so much in such fine details – but if you love a challenge with 50 levels, you'll wring every last drop of fun out of this one. What's more, if you burn through the included levels, version 1.1 enables you to download levels created by other users. ●


VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's fun and you can learn some elementary physics while you play. Splash it all over!"

Shareware

Our shareware guru, Craig Grannell looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

Mac
FORMAT
On the
disc

Find all reviewed
titles on this issue's
MacFormat disc

SNIPPETS

It's good to talk



18 months have passed since we last reviewed *Adium X* (www.adiumx.com), and although the recent 1.3 update doesn't provide enough changes to warrant a proper review, we can at least mention a few of the changes. Most usefully, it now feels much faster when signing on to multiple accounts. Also, the *Contact Inspector* is much improved, and there's also rudimentary support for Facebook's chat service.

Code plucker



Often it strikes us just how often developers have created solutions for problems that don't really exist. *HTMLGrabber* (www.macupdate.com/info.php?id/28515/htmlgrabber) is a case in point. It offers a single window for downloading website source code, which you can do in any browser. It does its job efficiently, but we're still left puzzled, wondering what the point of it is. If you've got any idea then please feel free to drop us a line!

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

Spark 3.0b8



£FREE Create system-wide shortcuts to documents, apps and more



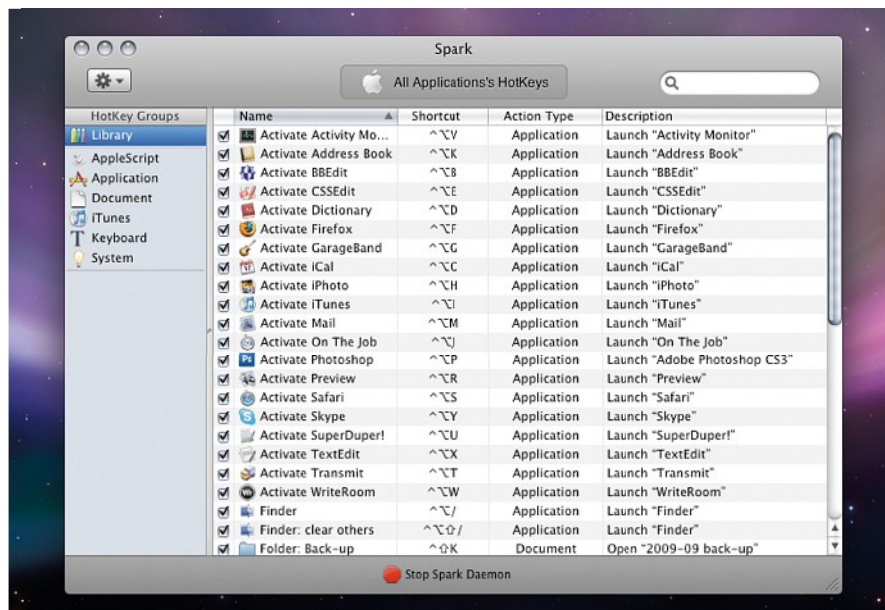
There are two types of Mac user: those that swear by their keyboard and use it

for all sorts of crafty shortcuts, and those that instead prefer using only a mouse for controlling their system. *Spark* is for keyboard shortcut fanatics, and it enables you to rapidly create system-wide shortcuts to pretty much anything. In fact, it's so good we think it will appeal to everyone.

Spark hot-keys

New shortcuts are added via the *Spark* application, and are linked to groups relating to their type: **AppleScript**, **Application**, **Document**, **iTunes**, **Keyboard** and **System**. This isn't an original concept, but *Spark* beats its rivals due to the sheer number of options afforded to users. For example, applications can be set to launch hidden or in the background, or hide other apps, and toggles can be defined (for example, launch/quit), rather than restricting a single shortcut to one thing.

For documents, **Open** is the default action, but the likes of **Reveal** and **Open Selection With** are handy alternatives. And although the **System** set is less useful, there are bound to be users who will jump at the chance to get single-key access



"This isn't an original concept, but Spark beats its rivals due to the sheer number of options afforded to users"

to system commands (**Sleep**, **Empty Trash**, and so on) and the keyboard viewer.

Version 3 of *Spark* has been in beta seemingly for ever, but we couldn't wait any longer to review it, because it's just utterly brilliant. We'd happily pay £15 for the application, but the fact it's free is staggering. And

although it's in beta, we've been running releases of *Spark 3* on multiple machines all year with no real problems.

The two-page tutorial on page 60 this issue provides more insight into this great piece of freeware, so get stuck in right away for a more efficient and streamlined Mac experience.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Shadow Lab
<http://shadowlab.org/>
Vendor Shadow Lab
<http://shadowlab.org/>

VERDICT

★★★★★

"One of the best and most useful pieces of freeware available for the Mac. Utterly essential."





Find all reviewed
browsers, except
Safari, on the disc.

WEB BROWSERS

Surf's up!

Words Craig Grannell Photography Joby Sessions

Safari isn't the only browser. We compare it with five of the best OS X-compatible alternatives

Most Mac users tend to use the browser that came installed on their computer (Apple's *Safari*) just because it's there and it's made by Apple. But as a discerning Mac user, Safari isn't your only choice. With this Group Test we're going to check out the alternatives, to see whether it's worth switching to something new.

Browsers used to be compared on the basis of compatibility, but these days the vast majority of sites work fine across all browsers. Speed, despite the claims of each browser manufacturer, also isn't a major consideration regarding which to use. During testing, you'll typically find a new browser works faster than an old one, since it's not 'weighed down' with junk. In

practice, you'll find few noticeable speed differences between browsers running on a clean Mac OS X install.

Today, features rule the roost, and this is our main consideration in this Group Test.

"Speed and compatibility aren't big considerations regarding which browser to use. Today, the features rule the roost"

How easy do these browsers make it to find information and to browse the web? How extensible are they? And can they block out annoyances? Find out overleaf... ►

ON TEST



Camino 1.6.3 **£FREE**



Firefox 3.0.1 **£FREE**



Flock 1.2.4 **£FREE**



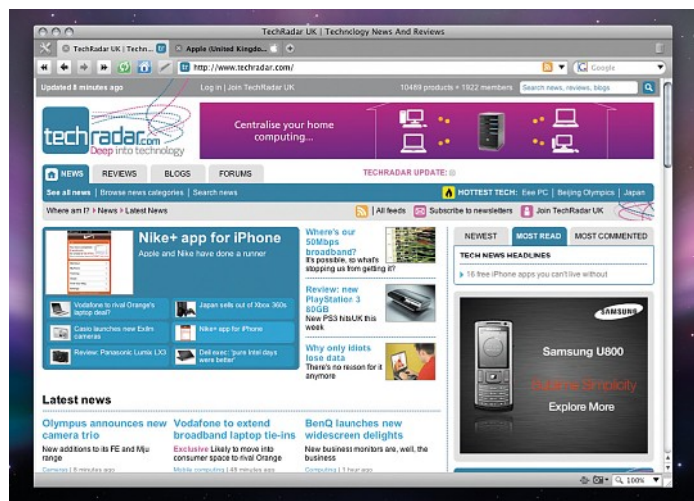
OmniWeb 5.7 **\$14.95**



Opera 9.5.1 **£FREE**



Safari 3.1.2 **£FREE**



The most recent Opera browser application is far more streamlined, and its interface more Mac-like.

TEST ONE

Ease of use

How do they perform when it comes to surfing?

Usability is of paramount importance when it comes to everyday tools, and browsers are no exception. *Safari*, perhaps unsurprisingly, takes the crown in terms of pick-up-and-play simplicity. Its interface is streamlined and straightforward and its various options are logically housed in the browser's menus and preferences. A worthy rival is *Camino*, which offers a similarly honed-down interface and aesthetic, and preferences that don't betray its roots as a cousin of the comparatively complex *Firefox*.

Of the other browsers on test, *Opera*'s been taking the most notes. Its interface, while still a little alien in feel, is far more Mac-like as of version 9.5, and although its preferences are

more complex than *Safari*'s, extended ones are shoved into an **Advanced** category that users can ignore.

Elsewhere, *Firefox* remains messy, but it's simple enough to use, while *Flock*'s bewildering interface may make newcomers recoil in horror. *OmniWeb* sits in the middle ground, with a decent balance of usability and flexibility, but it pales alongside *Safari* and *Camino*.

RESULTS

Camino	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Flock	★★★★★
OmniWeb	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★

TEST TWO

Content searching

How easy is it to find sites and specific page content?

Finding content can be broken down into three areas: dredging up items from your history and bookmarks, web searches, and in-page searches. For the first of those things, all browsers offer address bar auto-complete of varying quality, but *Firefox 3* blows the competition away: its smart location bar adapts over time, matching items from keywords, URLs and user-definable tags.

For in-page incremental find-while-you-type searches, *Firefox* lags behind. The stars are *Safari* and *Opera*, which highlight all instances of a term. *Opera* also offers **Quick Find**, enabling access to pages based on their content via text strings typed into the address bar.

There's also variance with keyword searches (typing something like 'am

apple' to search Amazon for 'apple') and each browser's search field. Gecko-based browsers – *Flock*, *Firefox* and *Camino* – provide a means for updating the built-in search engine field, as does *Opera*. *Camino* omits keyword searches entirely. With *Safari*, it's Google and no keywords, but with *OmniWeb*, keyword searches form the basis for the search box at the top-right of each window – a nice touch.

RESULTS

Camino	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Flock	★★★★★
OmniWeb	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★



Safari's in-page search makes locating search strings on a web page an absolute breeze.

ALTERNATIVE BROWSING | What else is out there for the Mac?

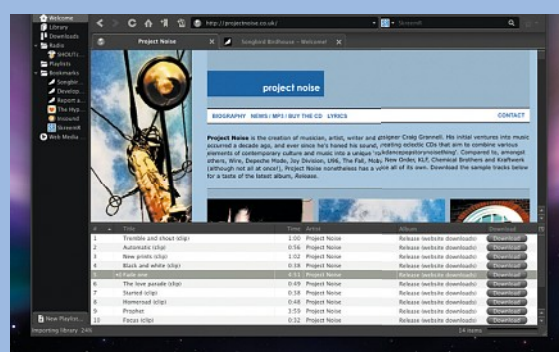
Although we consider the six browsers in this Group Test the best of the bunch for Mac OS X, alternatives exist. Some are cross-platform projects that have made their way to the Mac, such as *AOL Desktop*, and Gecko variants *SeaMonkey* and *Songbird* (Gecko being the engine that drives *Firefox*, *Flock* and *Camino*). Of these, *Songbird* (www.getsongbird.com) is most interesting. Resembling the result of *iTunes* and a web browser merging into a single application, *Songbird* provides the ability to play various music formats (including *iTunes*

downloads) and the means of creating playlists from audio embedded within web pages. Despite being in development since 2006, *Songbird* still feels rickety, but it bodes watching.

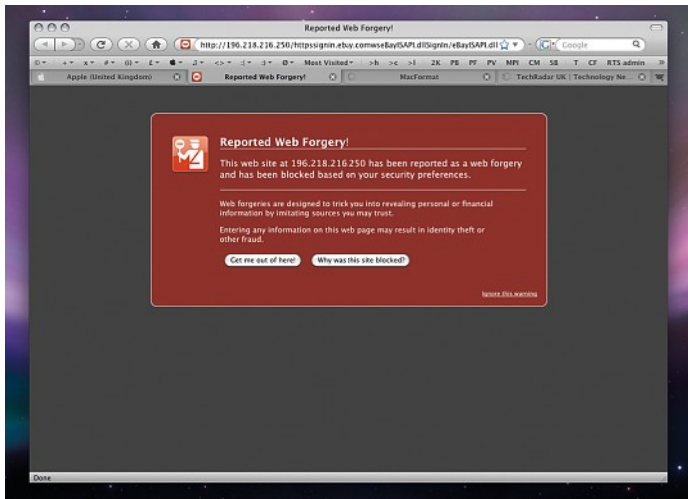
Elsewhere, several Mac-specific browsers exist. *Shiira* (www.shiira.jp/en.php) is a WebKit browser that once aimed to trump *Safari*, although development has stalled, meaning it's lost ground on Apple's offering. *Sunrise* (www.sunrisebrowser.com/en) aims to appeal to web designers, offering visual bookmarks and the

ability to snap the browser window to popular screen resolutions. And *iCab* (www.icab.de), now using WebKit, provides features on a par with *Safari*, along with decent ad-blocking.

Also, if you're the kind of user who enjoys being at the bleeding edge, you can get sneak peeks into the future of browsers by downloading nightly builds and beta versions. The most interesting at the time of writing is *Flock 2*, which looks like it will include all of *Firefox 3*'s improvements along with updating *Flock*-specific features.



Songbird looks like the mutant offspring of *iTunes* and *Firefox*.



On visiting most phishing websites, Firefox throws up a crystal clear warning, which is a great touch.

TEST THREE

Blocking content

Can users block annoying and unsavoury content?

Users typically want to block two types of content: advertising and phishing websites. All browsers offer basic pop-up blocking and the ability to disable scripts, but that's where *Safari* stops. *Flock* and *Firefox* provide the means to block images and edit the subsequent block list, and *Firefox* gets extra points for its phishing and malware protection (the only Mac browser currently offering this), which, while not entirely foolproof, managed to warn us about the majority of dodgy websites we attempted to access. *Opera* also enables you to block *Flash* content on an item-by-item basis, or disable various content types via its **Quick Preferences** menu.

The two best browsers for blocking content are *Camino* and *OmniWeb*, although each offers a very different method. *Camino*'s 'block web advertising' option is an effective single-click affair, although it does also, by default, block inline video on various sites. Conversely, *OmniWeb* offers a huge array of features and global blocking preferences that can be overridden per site.

RESULTS

Camino	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Flock	★★★★★
OmniWeb	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★

TEST FOUR

Bookmarking

How easy is it to store data about your favourite sites?

Any browser worth its salt must enable you to edit and search bookmarks with ease. With the exception of *Camino*, all browsers on test provide a group bookmarking function for saving tab sets, either by storing sessions (*Opera*, *OmniWeb*) or defining a bookmark folder (*Firefox*, *Flock*, *Safari*). Most also offer tricks of varying sizes and usefulness.

At the smaller end of the scale, there's *Camino*'s ability to compile a top-ten list and bung a user-defined favourites folder in its Dock menu, and *Safari*'s auto-click, which enables you to open everything in a bookmarks folder with a single click. Meanwhile, *OmniWeb* provides subscriptions that watch for changes to bookmarks, along with enabling you to configure

preferences and define a keyword shortcut for each individual bookmark.

Perhaps most impressive, though, is *Firefox*, which encourages you to just bung everything in the **Unsorted Bookmarks** folder and assign tags or keywords to bookmarks. Favourites can then be retrieved by typing tags in *Firefox*'s address bar, rather than rummaging through the **Bookmarks** menu's sub-menus.

RESULTS

Camino	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Flock	★★★★★
OmniWeb	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★



OmniWeb very usefully enables you to define preferences on a per-site basis.

SINGLE-SITE BROWSERS | Standalone apps

As more work is done online via various web applications, such as *Gmail* and *Photoshop Express*, browser stability is an increasing concern. Although everything on test proved stable, no browser is bulletproof, and it only takes a particularly unruly site for everything to come crashing down. While most browsers enable you to continue an unexpectedly quit session, chances are your set-up and content will be gone upon a restart.

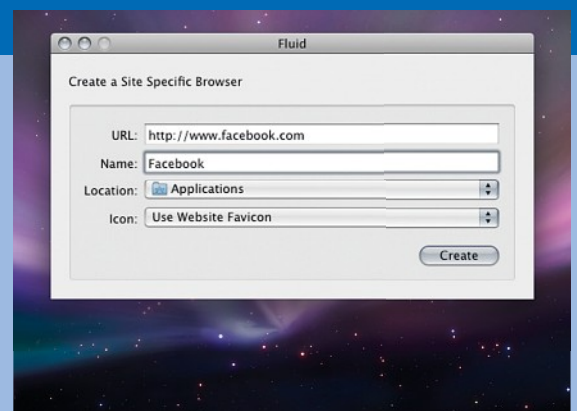
To get around this, developers have started creating applications designed to tie directly into particular

websites. Some, such as those by *iwascoding* (www.iwascoding.com), are specific to a particular service – in this case, the developer provides tools for buying and selling on *eBay* and interacting with *PayPal*, without having to access the actual websites.

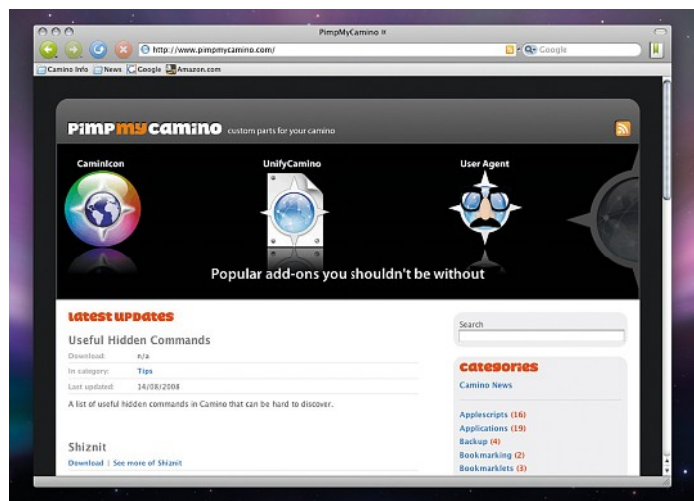
Perhaps more interesting is the recent flurry of activity surrounding single-site browsers (SSBs), most popularised on the Mac via *Fluid* (www.fluidapp.com). This freeware application enables you to turn any website into a standalone app, complete with icon, meaning that if

your main browser crashes, your SSBs remain unaffected. Usefully, the application also makes use of Dock badge icons, enabling you to see your unread message count in *Gmail* or notifications in *Flickr*.

Although currently something of a niche concern, it's clear SSBs will become more commonplace over time, and the concept appears to have piqued Apple's interest, too. According to developers with early builds of *Safari 4*, the next major release of Apple's browser will include a feature for creating SSBs.



Fluid enables you to create site-specific browsers that turn web apps into standalone applications.



Despite its bare-bones nature, Camino can still be extended.

TEST FIVE

Flexibility

Can you customise each browser to your liking?

Firefox is the customisation king. Although some of the vast array of plug-ins aren't yet compatible with version 3 of the browser, chances are they soon will be. With *Flock* essentially being a pimped-up *Firefox*, many *Firefox* plug-ins work fine with it, and *Flock* also has a diverse range of its own extensions. *Opera* has also been nurturing its development community, although much of its output appears centred around widgets, which aren't terribly interesting to Mac users who have *Dashboard* ready and waiting.

Of the remaining three browsers, none has near the level of support *Firefox* enjoys, but *Safari* and *Camino* both have websites dedicated to extending them (www.pimpmycamino.com/

and www.pimpmysafari.com/). A mix of shareware and freeware can be used to enhance the browser, although we found *Safari* tends to suffer stability-wise when extended too much. Also, many *Safari* extensions offer functionality that already exists within *Firefox*. As for *OmniWeb*, its level of extensibility is almost zero, restricting you to built-in functionality and options.

RESULTS

Camino	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Flock	★★★★★
OmniWeb	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★

TEST SIX

Extra features

Which browsers offer extras – and are they any good?

Ultimately it's the extra features that make browsers stand out for recommendation. *Safari* boasts some beautiful and handy developer tools, and its RSS reader remains one of the most usable browser-based examples.

Elsewhere, *OmniWeb* provides a smattering of nuggets from per-site external link control and bookmarks subscriptions to its auto-saveable workspaces and popular visual tabs. And *Firefox* provides a site ID pop-up from the menu bar, along with parental controls. We also that you can reopen recently closed tabs via the *History* menu.

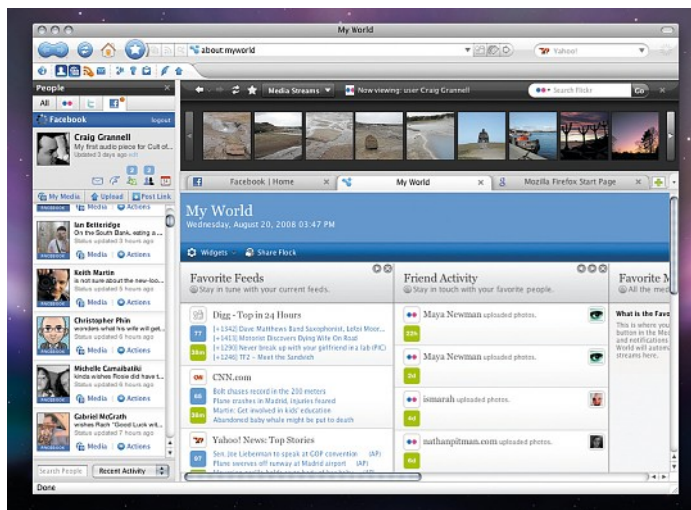
Opera and *Flock* stand out in this section, however. *Opera* provides mouse gestures, a built-in BitTorrent

client, a *User* mode for developers (enabling varied alternate appearance settings) and *Speed Dial*, a page for default tabs that enables you to house nine commonly accessed web pages.

Flock, though, takes the crown. It shoe-horns in an astonishing number of features for social networking, enabling you to access Flickr streams and upload images, edit your blog, and keep track of your webmail.

RESULTS

Camino	★★★★★
Firefox	★★★★★
Flock	★★★★★
OmniWeb	★★★★★
Opera	★★★★★
Safari	★★★★★



Flock is king of extras – at least if you're into social networking.

AND THE WINNER IS | Firefox 3

It's been a really hard task trying to pick a winner in this Group Test. Each browser on test here offers something unique, and yet they're all flawed in some way. This problem is further compounded by the fact that the quality of the Mac browsers we tested falls in a somewhat narrow band from 'quite good' to 'very good', but with no single candidate proving itself significantly ahead of the pack. Also, some users will, regardless of features, prefer a certain type of browser because they're used to the one they currently use. Therefore, the winner of this Group Test is the browser most balanced towards the positive when all the pros and cons are weighed up.

For us, *Firefox 3* gets the winner's prize. There are still things we absolutely hate about *Firefox*, most notably its ghastly visual design, which betrays its cross-platform roots, and its stoic ignorance of Mac conventions. Despite promises during the alpha run of the browser, it doesn't yet use Mac OS X's built-in spell-checker, and its theme is a botched attempt to fit in with Leopard. But *Firefox*'s sheer speed, ease of use and excellent feature-set ensures it's the fastest and most efficient way of browsing the internet, and when it's reskinned (quick tip: go to www.takebacktheweb.org to give it a makeover and make it look 100 times better), the nasty interface is dealt with.

Worthy nods go to *Opera*, *Flock* (which might have won had 2.0 – which adds *Firefox 3*'s improvements – been ready) and *Safari*, which could have been a contender if it was more feature-rich.

FINAL VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's *Firefox* by a nose, primarily due to all the great additions in *Firefox 3*. But let's make *Firefox 4* more Mac-like, eh, guys?"



WEB BROWSERS

**Camino 1.6.3**

★★★★★

**Firefox 3.0.1**

★★★★★

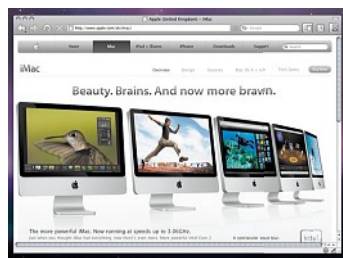
**Flock 1.2.4**

★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	£FREE	£FREE	£FREE
URL	www.caminobrowser.org	www.firefox.com	www.flock.com
Minimum OS	Mac OS X 10.3.9	Mac OS X 10.4	Mac OS X 10.3.9
Rendering engine	Gecko	Gecko	Gecko
Content-blocking	Animations (Flash), Java, JavaScript, pop-ups, web ads	Images (global or by domain), Java, JavaScript, pop-ups	Images (global or by domain), Java, JavaScript, pop-ups
Phishing protection	No	Yes	No
Incremental find	Single instance	Single instance	Single instance
Keyword searches/shortcuts	Shortcuts only	Yes	Searches only
Content zooming	Text only	Full page or text-only	Text only
Spell-checking	System, inline	Proprietary, inline	Proprietary, inline
Bookmark importing	Firefox, Internet Explorer, OmniWeb, Opera, Safari, file	Safari, HTML	Firefox, Safari, file
Group bookmarking	As tab group	As folder	As folder

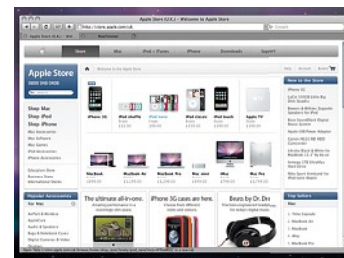
WEB BROWSERS

**OmniWeb 5.7**

★★★★★

**Opera 9.5.1**

★★★★★

**Safari 3.1.2**

★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS

Price	\$14.95	£FREE	£FREE
URL	www.omnigroup.com	www.opera.com	www.apple.com/uk/safari/
Minimum OS	Mac OS X 10.4.8	Mac OS X 10.3	Mac OS X 10.4.11
Rendering engine	WebKit	Presto	WebKit
Content-blocking	Animations, images, Java, JavaScript, pop-ups, web advertising, content from blocked URLs (all global or site-specific)	Animations, Java, JavaScript, plug-ins, pop-ups, sound, and per-site user-defined page content	Java, JavaScript, plug-ins, pop-ups
Phishing protection	No	No	No
Incremental find	Links only	All instances	All instances
Keyword searches/shortcuts	Yes	Yes	No
Content zooming	Text only	Full page only	Text only
Spell-checking	System, inline	System, via dialog	System, inline
Bookmark importing	Safari, file	Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, Safari	File
Group bookmarking	As workspace or session	As session	As single-click folder

★★★★★ Buyers' guide



Sponsored by
techradar.com
Deep into technology

How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

The last couple of months have been a bit quiet for Apple, but the new iPods are a welcome arrival. There have been changes to the iPod touch, minor changes to the classic and shuffle, but a whole new look for the nano range. Find out more on pages 114-115. Of course, this section also helps you if you're thinking of buying a new Mac, so we have all the current Macs lined up to make your buying decision as easy as possible.

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose between a laptop or desktop. If you work on the move then a laptop is best, but these do have

small screens and fiddly keyboards. And they actually cost more than a lower-end desktop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and the new MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £699 and is great for less intensive work, like using the *iLife* apps.

DID YOU KNOW?

The MacBook Air's multi-touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*



The MacBook Pro, starting at £1,299, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. The super-thin MacBook Air is ideally suited to a regular

business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. There is no CD/DVD drive included, but an external SuperDrive can be bought for £65.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4



"All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"



or 2.5GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.5GHz version machine, too. And you can now upgrade the 2.5GHz Pros to 2.6GHz for an extra £160. The MacBook only comes with a 13-inch screen, as does the MacBook Air.

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £399 you get a 1.83GHz machine with a Combo Drive, or a 2.0GHz mini with a SuperDrive for £499. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse.

The new iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.4GHz, 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.8GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz, from £799. These all-in-ones now have the power to almost rival a Mac Pro, although for real intensive work you will need to buy Apple's

high-end professional Mac. With a basic spec of one quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your exact requirements.

Prices start from £1,429, but with the option of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Display from just £399 is far and away the best choice.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '08* software, so you can organise photos, make and store music, build websites and create movies to burn to a DVD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new iMacs feature a FireWire 800 port in addition to the FireWire 400. What more could you need?



APPLE STORES IN THE UK



- 1 235 Regent Street, London, 0207 153 9000
- 2 Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham, 0121 260 1900
- 3 Bluewater Shopping Centre, Greenhithe, Kent, 01322 640 100
- 4 Trafford Centre, Manchester, 0161 240 1000
- 5 Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield, 0114 212 1000
- 6 Brent Cross, London, 0208 359 1050
- 7 Arndale Centre, Manchester, 0161 216 4570
- 8 WestQuay Shopping Centre, Southampton, 023 8030 1050
- 9 Bentall Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, 0208 213 2020
- 10 147 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, 0141 300 4950
- 11 147 Touchwood Centre, Solihull, 0121 224 1300
- 12 Lakeside Shopping Centre, Grays, Essex, 0170 871 7500
- 13 24 Princesshay, Exeter, 0139 231 6600
- 14 26 Midsummer Place, Milton Keynes, 01908 856 650
- 15 Grand Arcade, Cambridge, 01223 253 600
- 16 Unit 95, Paradise St (West), Liverpool, 0151 472 2600
- 17 Upper Mall, Highcross, Leicester, 0116 201 1900
- 18 1 Victoria Square, Belfast, 028 9016 1900
- 19 11 Philadelphia St, Cabot Circus, Bristol, 0117 900 3450

BENCHMARKS | At the speed of Mac



	Mac mini	MacBook	MacBook Air	iMac	MacBook Pro	Mac Pro
Type tested	1.83GHz Core Duo 1GB RAM	13.3-inch 2.4GHz Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	20-inch 2.4GHz Core 2 Duo, 1GB RAM	15.4-inch 2.5GHz Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	2x 3GHz Intel Xeon, 2GB RAM
Start up	23 secs	24 secs	58.6 secs	27 secs	34 secs	23 secs
Shut down	12 secs	6 secs	5.7 secs	7.5 secs	5.8 secs	9 secs
iTunes encoding	55 secs	58 secs	1 min, 38 secs	49 secs	55 secs	47 secs
Photoshop radial blur	2 mins, 7 secs	1 min, 40 secs	2 mins, 54 secs	1 min, 43 secs	1 min, 35 secs	49 secs
Copy a 1GB folder	46 secs	54 secs	1 min, 26 secs	28.5 secs	49 secs	38 secs
Xbench (higher is better)	67	50.08	49.68	146	108	140.45

The CPU and Quartz Graphics test results were generated using Xbench. The Photoshop test involved applying a 100% radial blur to the same JPEG image on all three MacBooks. Cinebench is a widely used benchmarking application based on the powerful 3D rendering software Cinema 4D. Both Cinebench and Xbench can be downloaded from the internet for free. You need to purchase a serial key to unlock Cinebench's 64-bit testing tools. Results may vary between equally specced computers depending on several factors, including wear and tear, installed software and the version of the OS installed.

Your choice of Apple gear

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT PURCHASE



iMac

Updated April 2008



MacBook Pro

Updated February 2008

15-inch 2.4GHz £1,299

15.4-inch TFT widescreen display
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB (two SO-DIMMs)
200GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card with 256MB SDRAM
Built-in iSight, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, multi-touch trackpad
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- +** Multi-touch trackpad
- Screen too small for some

15-inch 2.5GHz £1,599

15.4-inch TFT widescreen display
2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
6MB shared L2 cache
2GB (two SO-DIMMs)
250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card with 512MB SDRAM
Built-in iSight, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, multi-touch trackpad
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- +** Lots of HD space
- Upgrade options could cost

17-inch 2.5GHz £1,799

17-inch TFT widescreen display
2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
6MB shared L2 cache
2GB (2x SO-DIMMs)
250GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT graphics card with 512MB SDRAM
Built-in iSight, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0, multi-touch trackpad
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- +** Option to upgrade to 2.6GHz
- Puts a big dent in the wallet

20-inch 2.4GHz £799

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
250GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

- +** Great value
- Bigger HD would be nice

20-inch 2.66GHz £949

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB memory
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote

- +** 2GB memory
- Wired mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.8GHz £1,149

2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB memory
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

- +** Impressive specification
- £34 extra to go wireless

24-inch 3.06GHz £1,389

3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme
2GB memory
500GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GS with 512MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote

- +** Fastest ever iMac
- Could spend loads upgrading

One 2.8GHz Quad £1,429

One 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- + Great value for money
- Could spend loads upgrading

Two 2.8GHz Quad £1,749

Two 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- + Great configuration options
- Upgrade options tempting

Two 3GHz Quad £2,249

Two 3.0GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- + Two 3GHz Quad processors!
- Too many upgrade choices?

Two 3.2GHz Quad £2,758.99

Two 3.2GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- + The fastest Mac ever
- Do you really need it?

Mac mini

Updated
August
2007



1.83GHz 80GB £399

1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
80GB hard drive
2MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

- + Excellent value for money
- Poor for 3D graphics

MacBook Air



Released
January
2008

13-inch 1.6GHz £1,199.01

1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB memory
80GB 4,200-rpm PATA hard drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Backlit keyboard
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor
LED display

- + Thintastic!
- SuperDrive is an extra £65

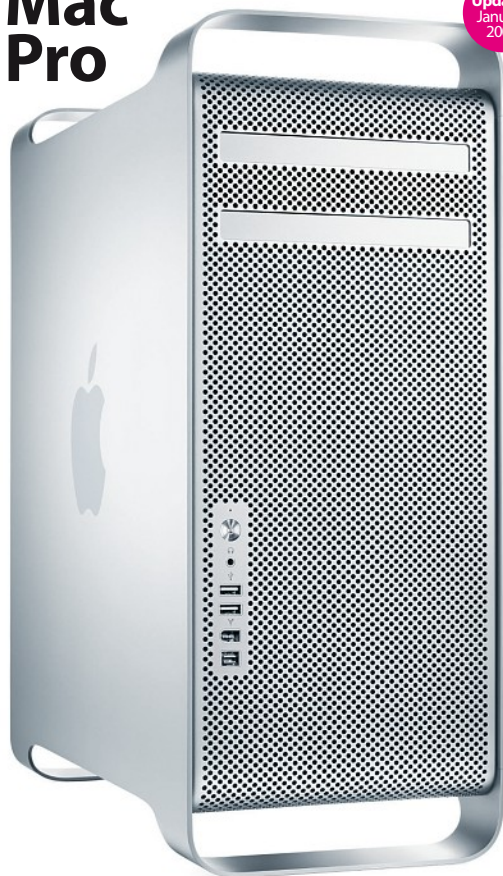
13-inch 1.8GHz £2,028

1.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB memory
64GB solid-state drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Backlit keyboard
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor
LED display

- + Looks stunning
- Expensive and needs extras

Mac Pro

Updated
January
2008



2.0GHz 120GB £499

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
120GB hard drive
4MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

- + More hard drive space
- Still not ideal for gamers

13-inch white 2.1GHz £699

13.3-inch glossy TFT display
2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
1GB RAM (two SO-DIMMs)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
24x Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- + Great value
- Could use more RAM

13-inch white 2.4GHz £829

13.3-inch glossy TFT display
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (two SO-DIMMs)
160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- + More RAM and HD space
- No multi-touch trackpad



MacBook

Updated
February
2008

13-inch black 2.4GHz £949

13.3-inch glossy TFT display
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (two SO-DIMMs)
250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- + Loads of HD space
- It's pricey in black



"The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use"

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your iTunes window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a more generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices, especially now that Apple has announced new prices and new looks.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's

current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The new 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the entry-level 1GB iPod shuffle.

The best compromise is the new-look iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5 inch diagonal screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the improved 8GB and 16GB

capacities are sufficient for many. The choice of colour now is vast, and there's definitely a nano for everyone. These are going to be big sellers!

The iPod touch is in another league altogether. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone.

DID YOU KNOW?

The various iPod flavours represent almost three-quarters of the market; Microsoft's Zune has 2.6%



iPod classic

Updated September 2008

iPod classic 120GB £179

Up to 30,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 150 hours of video
Available in black and silver
2.5-inch screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
103.5x61.8x10.5mm
140g



iPod shuffle

Updated September 2008

iPod shuffle 1GB £32

Up to 240 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g

iPod shuffle 2GB £45

Up to 500 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g



iPod touch

Updated
September
2008

iPod touch 8GB

£169

Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB

£219

Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB

£289

Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g



iPhone 3G

Updated
June
2008

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g



iPod nano

Updated
September
2008

iPod nano 8GB

£109

Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£149

Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

IPHONE vs IPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might

think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's

(admittedly pretty crappy) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls, both of which it originally lacked.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

TOP GEAR

Extend your Mac with our pick of peripherals and software

CONTENTS

- 116 Keyboards & mice
Printers
Displays
Scanners/All-in-ones
- 117 Digital cameras
Digital video cameras
Routers/networking
Storage
- 118 Speakers
Digital music players
iPod accessories
VoIP phones
- 119 Home office
Visual tools and layout
Games
Multimedia software

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★



Price: £29
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10



- ✚ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
- ✖ May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."



Apple Wireless Keyboard

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin



- ✚ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
- ✖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work



Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth



- ✚ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
- ✖ Odd acceleration behaviour

DISPLAYS

Apple 23-inch Cinema Display ★★★★★



Price: £599
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 23-inch (viewable), Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible



- ✚ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
- ✖ No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with this 23-inch Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."



Eizo FlexScan S2110W

Price: £505 **Reviewed:** Issue 182
Full review: www.techradar.com/48701
Key specs: 1,680x1,050 res; 2x digital DVI, USB2.0



- ✚ Smart features; brilliant picture; easy to use
- ✖ Expensive



Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

Price: £698 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res



- ✚ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
- ✖ Need a lot of room to house it!

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP6600D ★★★★★



Price: £87
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53946
Key specs: Thermal inkjet; A4 prints; 9,600x2,400dpi; six-ink printing; duplex printing; DVD/CD label printing; memory card readers; PictBridge socket



- ✚ Large LCD display; twin paper sources; DVD/CD label printing; duplex printing
- ✖ Slight fuzz on black text; slow compared to non-photo printers

"The iP6600D is a versatile printer giving quality prints, with more bells and whistles than a Morris-dancing troupe of football refs."



HP Photosmart A618

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: 3-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi



- ✚ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
- ✖ Bit slow



Canon PIXMA iP100

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 199
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; USB 2.0; Bluetooth



- ✚ Compact; excellent results; strong build
- ✖ Lack of camera card slots

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon CanoScan 8600F ★★★★★



Price: £149
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225903
Key specs: Charge Coupled Device; A4 max print size; document/film scanner; FARE level 3 scratch removal, 7x EZ buttons; Adobe Photoshop Elements 4; LaserFast SE; ScanGear CS



- ✚ Excellent software bundle; produces speedy scans; good quality results
- ✖ Quite bulky

"It's fast, versatile, not too expensive and comes with a very impressive bundle of software. This is the best scanner by far."



Canon PIXMA MP610

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi



- ✚ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
- ✖ Slow duplex printing



Canon PIXMA MX700

Price: £131 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR



- ✚ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
- ✖ No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★



Price: £138
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-15mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

- Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
- Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."



Canon EOS 40D
Price: £799 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

- Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
- Some idiosyncratic functions



Pentax Optio M50
Price: £132 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

- Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
- Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

JVC GR-DF470EK ★★★★★



Price: £264
Web: www.jvc.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/72721
Key specs: 15x optical zoom, 700x digital zoom; 2.5-inch LCD; 2.6-39mm focal length; MiniDV media – 8MB card supplied; mic socket; remote; 400g; 75x111x74mm

- Solid build; great value for money; lots of features
- May need to keep manual at hand

"It's packed with features and built to last. The JVC GR-DF470EK is a quality camera at a staggeringly affordable price."



Canon MVX460
Price: £325 **Reviewed:** Issue 176
Full review: www.techradar.com/74243
Key specs: 20x optical zoom; MiniDV format

- Stunning sound; simple controls; attractive
- Expensive; no media supplied



Canon HG10
Price: £670 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

- Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
- Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station ★★★★★



Price: £119
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

- Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
- UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."



Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N
Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/31179
Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

- Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates
- Not the best looking device



Apple AirPort Express
Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

- Easy to set up; iTunes is great; supports Windows
- Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★



Price: £158
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; Dantz Retrospect backup software; FireWire 400 cable

- Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast
- Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."



Western Digital My Book Pro
Price: £140 **Reviewed:** Issue 173
Full review: www.techradar.com/47284
Key specs: 500GB capacity; FireWire 400/800/USB 2.0

- Slim build; lightweight; elegant; brushed metal
- Too delicate for some people's tastes



Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4
Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/380224
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

- Lots of connection options; cheap; small footprint
- Can get hot; no LED indicator

HOW TO BUY... a digital camcorder

1 WHY?
 Prices are dropping all the time and a digital camcorder is now certainly affordable. High definition cameras are also available.

2 MINIDV
 MiniDV tape cassette camcorders still offer the best picture quality for your money, though hard drive camcorders are catching up fast.

3 HDD
 Hard drive camcorders offer the convenience of being able to browse and edit tracks on the camera quickly, and longer recording sessions.

4 MAC COMPATIBILITY
 Not all camcorders can export footage directly into iMovie. Hard drive models that can need to support AVCHD. Most MiniDV tape camcorders export directly to iMovie.

5 TRENDS
 The whole industry is moving over to hard drive or solid state camcorders and dropping MiniDV. All the major advances in camcorder technology are going to be on these HDD and SS models.

6 PRICE
 A good entry-level camcorder, like the Canon MV930, will cost around £300. Decent camcorders start to justify their suitcase space at around the £500 mark.



Editor's choice



Where Graham's cash is heading...

Apple iPod touch 32GB

Price £289

Manufacturer Apple

Web www.apple.com/uk



Take the old iPod touch, add in a speaker, volume buttons, make it thinner and what have you got? The new iPod touch, of course!

With the introduction of hundreds of third-party apps via the App Store, the new iPod touch isn't just a music and video player; it's a fully-fledged PDA/web browser/games console with an amazingly good screen, a revolutionary Multi-Touch control method and WiFi internet access built in. All this technology is locked inside a ridiculously thin 8.5mm case with a gorgeous stainless steel back.

The first-generation iPod touch seemed unnecessarily basic, like an iPhone ruthlessly stripped back to the bone. This second-generation effort feels much more like a finished product. It oozes design flair, bustles with features and finally, at 32GB, has a decent memory size. And for that we can even forgive Apple many things, like calling it the "funnest" iPod ever.

"Packs in more technology than NASA probably used in building Apollo 13, and we love it."

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007 ★★★★★



Price: £395

Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/98316

Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini); 4x speaker outputs (mini); 1x subwoofer output; 4x 16W RMS

- ⊕ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
- ⊖ Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."



Acoustic Energy Aego-M

Price: £130 Reviewed: Issue 191

Full review: www.techradar.com/100419

Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output

- ⊕ Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
- ⊖ Not many extra features



Dynaudio MC15

Price: £736 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/458611

Key specs: 55Hz-21KHz; 8 ohms; 2x50W RMS

- ⊕ Excellent sound; good design and build; easy setup
- ⊖ Expensive

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Gear4 BluEye ★★★★★



Price: £50

Web: www.gear4.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/226518

Key specs: For fourth- and fifth-gen iPods, iPod mini and iPod nano

- ⊕ Answer calls by remote; great sound quality; voice-activated dialling
- ⊖ Nothing at all

"Quite possibly the best iPod accessory we've ever seen. It really is that good and deserves the accolade. Buy one now!"



iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

Price: £92 Reviewed: Issue 193

Full review: www.techradar.com/224088

Key specs: 10m range; easy USB connection

- ⊕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
- ⊖ High price



Macally TunePro Flat Panel

Price: £60 Reviewed: Issue 191

Full review: www.techradar.com/218943

Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg

- ⊕ Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
- ⊖ Remote sold separately

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★



Price: £99/£129

Web: www.apple.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/226601

Key specs: 4GB (silver only); 8GB (silver, blue, green, black, PRODUCT (RED)); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 5hrs video

- ⊕ Amazing screen resolution; small and light; new menus and Cover Flow
- ⊖ Small screen for video; stubby design; 8GB maximum capacity

"Apple has once again raised the bar with the new iPod nano, and the competition will struggle to keep up. Just needs more storage."



Apple iPod classic

Price: £159/£229 Reviewed: Issue 188

Full review: www.techradar.com/226641

Key specs: 80GB/160GB; black or silver; video playback

- ⊕ Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
- ⊖ Must re-buy purchased games



Apple iPod touch 32GB

Price: £329 Reviewed: Issue 193

Full review: www.techradar.com/221658

Key specs: 8GB & 16GB also available; WiFi browsing

- ⊕ Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
- ⊖ Not cheap!

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III ★★★★★



Price: £230

Web: www.project-audio.com

Full review: www.techradar.com/102079

Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, gold-plated RCA phono sockets, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk, dust cover, available in matt black and silver.

- ⊕ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
- ⊖ Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is an outstanding product – and that's before you've added a USB interface."



Line 6 Pocket Pod

Price: £57 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/457821

Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack

- ⊕ Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
- ⊖ Slightly clunky interface; lacks some pro functions



Imono HI-2503

Price: £17 Reviewed: Issue 200

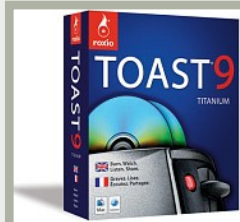
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087

Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0

- ⊕ Cheap; efficient; easy to use; supports IDE and SATA
- ⊖ No protection from debris

HOME OFFICE

Roxio Toast 9 Titanium ★★★★★



Price: £70
Web: www.roxio.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/311459
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or Mac OS X 10.5; 600MB hard disk space; 15GB temporary free disk space during usage; CD, DVD or Blu-ray recordable drive; QuickTime 7 or higher



- ⊕ Superb bundle; HD video burning (with plug-in); bundled backup app
- ⊖ Expensive upgrade

"Toast 9 Titanium is a great suite and still the burning king, but think carefully before buying the relatively expensive upgrade."



Scrivener 1.0
Price: \$35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/33080
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4

- ⊕ Reliable; great for writers; top export options
- ⊖ Nothing



FileMaker Bento
Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218102
System reqs: 867MHz G4; Mac OS X 10.5; 512MB RAM

- ⊕ Simple to use; integrates with Address Book and iCal
- ⊖ No Apple Mail integration

GAMES

Tomb Raider Anniversary ★★★★★



Price: £35
Web: www.feralinteractive.com
System reqs: Intel Mac 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.1; 4GB hard drive space; 128GB VRAM



- ⊕ Looks great; controls are excellent; Lara moves beautifully; puzzling is rewarding
- ⊖ Some camera problems persist

"There are still a few camera issues but this is a satisfying return to form for the series. It's considerably better than the original."



Enemy Territory: Quake Wars
Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: Intel Core 2 Duo; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.5.1

- ⊕ Objective-based gameplay; meaty weapons
- ⊖ Looks bland in places

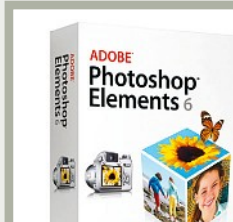


Sid Meier's Pirates!
Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Web: www.2kgames.com
System reqs: PPC/Intel 1.6GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4

- ⊕ Atmospheric looks; lots of setup options; sea battling
- ⊖ Nothing. It's great!

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★



Price: £58
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive



- ⊕ Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
- ⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."



Lemke Software GraphicConverter 6.0
Price: \$35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 187
Full review: www.techradar.com/226888
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.4

- ⊕ Opens anything; great batch processing; rich features
- ⊖ Could do with a visual facelift



Softpress Freeway Pro 5
Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.11+

- ⊕ Improved performance; great new Actions
- ⊖ Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★



Price: £319
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive



- ⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
- ⊖ Old users may balk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."



Plasq Doozla 1.1
Price: \$25 (£13) **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Full review: www.techradar.com/354362
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.6+

- ⊕ Great layout; lots of fun for kids and adults; stable;
- ⊖ Nothing at all



BeLight Software Disc Cover 2
Price: \$35 (£18) **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311267
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4+; 100MB disk space

- ⊕ Impressive templates; intuitive; easy to use; cheap
- ⊖ Can feel slow at times

Review your options

Keep up to date
with the newest
Mac products

MacFormat is the indispensable guide for choosing Apple kit. By subscribing, not only will you never miss an issue of your favourite Mac magazine, but you can save up to 36% per year and receive a Sennheiser PC 141 headset! Turn to page 26, visit the website below or phone and quote p067.

To subscribe call
0844 848 2852
or subscribe online at
www.myfavourite
magazines.co.uk/p067

Mac FORMAT

ISSUE 201 November 2008

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF
HELP & ADVICE
Improve your Mac skills today!

Do more
with iPhoto
How to compare and select photos

Turn photos
into artwork
How to make great watercolours!

New reviews
this issue
• iPod touch 32GB • iPod
nano 8GB • iDrive for Mac
• Gear4 BlackBox & more!

All your Apple needs

Essen mone

We show you how to
beat the credit crunch!

- The best free Mac software
- Get MobileMe for free!
- Bag freebies from Apple

INVESTIGATED
New Mac stores
Apple takes over the High St.

GROUP TEST
Browser battle
Safari alternatives reviewed

TUTOR
Cont
Use your

Next issue on sale
Wed 12 November 2008

Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you!

[1] Aberdeen MUG

Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG

Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG

Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG

Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG

Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland

Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College

Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts

Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users

Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG

Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] East Midlands MUG

Nottingham
paulgraham007@yahoo.co.uk
www.emmug.co.uk

[12] Edinburgh MUG

Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[13] Exeter Mac User Group

Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[14] FAMUS (Fife)

Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk

[15] Glasgow MUG

Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glaslug.org

[16] Isle of Wight MUG

Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[17] Kent & East Sussex MUG

Kent
www.keslug.org

[18] London MUG

London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[19] MACUS (Manchester)

Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[20] Manchester MUG

Manchester
simon.richards@manmug.co.uk

[21] Midlands MUG

Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[22] Naseby Mac User Group

Naseby
stuart.cato@mac.com

[23] Northern Ireland MUG

Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[24] North West Mac Group

Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[25] Norwich MUG

Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

[26] Oban Mac User Group

Oban
obanmug@mac.com

[27] OxMUG

Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[28] Potteries MUG

potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[29] Severn MUG

South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

[30] Southampton Uni

Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

[31] South Essex MUG

Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[32] South Wales MUG

Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[33] Sneem MUG

Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[34] Stroud Mac User Group

Stroud
jimuy@aol.com

[35] Suffolk Mac User Group

Ipswich
mike@mikewasniak.co.uk
www.suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[36] Surrey MUG

Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[37] Swindon MUG

Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlegmail.com
http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[38] Three Counties MUG

Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[39] Wessex MUGs

Horndean, Poole & Dorchester
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[40] Yorkshire MUG

Doncaster & other towns
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?

Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.co.uk



MUG OF THE MONTH

Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts

Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts is a group of Mac users living in and around the county of Cumbria. They meet on the second Thursday of each month in the seaside town of Barrow-in-Furness. Don't worry about the current credit crunch, though, because there are no membership fees, just a small collection to cover the cost of the meeting room.

"We look on ourselves as a mutual aid society, somewhere that people with the same interest can meet and talk about all things Mac," they tell us. "Meetings are informal, we try to help people with Mac troubles; after all, we all get them now and then."

There's a wide range of people in the Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts group. Some of them are just beginners but others spend their working lives using their favourite machines – Macs, of course!

There's no strict plan for each meeting; sometimes they end up with small groups discussing different topics, or sometimes there's a themed event.

To find out more about Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts, you can visit its website at http://home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm, just turn up at one of the meetings, or send an email to CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net and someone will try to answer your questions. ●

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical

help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders. To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org

NEW STARTER

Starting your own MUG?

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we will print the details here. Email us at macformat@futurenet.co.uk.

Apple Sales & Support In a town near you...

If you need somewhere to purchase or repair your Apple Products
then you can find your local dealers here...

For advertising opportunities in this section
call Andrew Tilbury on (01225) 442244



KEY TO THE REGIONS:

Scotland The North
Midlands Wales The East
London South West Eire

LONDON

Albion

112 Strand, London, WC2R 0AG

Tel: 020 7212 9090 Fax: 020 7212 9091 URL: <http://www.albion.co.uk>

• New store on the Strand WC2 • Open 6 days • Apple Authorised service provider with a range of services • Apple Premium Reseller & Internet Solutions Specialist

Albion / Compute Communicate Support.

LONDON

PCM Technologies Limited

45 Borthwick Road, Stratford, London E15 1UE

Tel: 020 8519 4497 Fax: 020 8519 1429

Email: sales@pcmtect.co.uk

Covering London, South-East & Midlands, PCM offers a personal service covering a broad spectrum of Macintosh and cross-platform support areas, including remote desktop support and exchange server integration.

pcm
TECHNOLOGIES LTD

LONDON

Rapid Group Plc

London, Fleet and Bournemouth

Tel: 0845 330 1600 Email: sales@rapidgroup.net

URL: <http://www.rapidgroup.net>

Rapid Group are an Authorised Apple Solutions Expert. We have two Apple service centres, one near London Bridge and the second in our head office in Fleet, Hampshire. We offer Active Directory Integration, Server & Storage Consultancy & Installation, Phone & VPN Support, Application Support, Hardware call out Support & Mobile Device Integration and much more.

rapid

LONDON

Square Group Ltd

78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1HB

Tel: 020 7692 6810 Fax: 020 7692 6636

Email: sales@squaregroup.co.uk

• Consultancy • Installation • Maintenance and after-sales support
• Authorised repair centre • File Transfer Specialists • Training
• Flexible Finance Terms • Buy online at www.squaregroup.co.uk

squaregroup

LONDON

SupportPlan plc

Park Place, Lawn Lane, London SW8 1UD

Tel: 0800 027 2292 Email: info@supportplan.com

URL: <http://www.supportplan.com>

Have specialised in supporting Mac's and PC's in creative environments since 1991 – based in central London.

SupportPlan
Supporting People. And Systems.

EAST

Rapid Group Plc

London, Fleet and Bournemouth

Tel: 0845 330 1600 Email: sales@rapidgroup.net

URL: <http://www.rapidgroup.net>

Rapid Group are an Authorised Apple Solutions Expert. We have two Apple service centres, one near London Bridge and the second in our head office in Fleet, Hampshire. We offer Active Directory Integration, Server & Storage Consultancy & Installation, Phone & VPN Support, Application Support, Hardware call out Support & Mobile Device Integration and much more.

rapid

NATIONWIDE

Cancom

Brighton, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Guildford, Kensington

Tel: 0845 6863500 Email: emma@cancomuk.com

URL: <http://www.cancomuk.com>

• Europe's largest Apple Reseller • Apple Solutions Expert in Education • Authorised Apple Service Provider • Consultancy and Support • Knowledgeable B2B/Mail order team • Configure your Mac on our advanced website • Competitive pricing • Stores in Brighton, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Guildford and Kensington.

CANCOM

THE NORTH

Jennings Computer Services

Scarborough and York

Tel: 01723 374196 Fax: 01904 690470 URL: <http://www.jcsld.co.uk>

Celebrating 25 years in business • Authorised Resellers and Service Providers • Offering a complete, professional service to commercial and personal users alike • Cross-platform systems / support • Networking / ADSL Webhosting

Jennings
COMPUTER SERVICES LTD

THE NORTH

KRCS Group

Hull, Leeds

Hull Store 01482 229 910 • 62 Carr Lane,

Leeds Store 0113 245 4245 • 89 Merion Street

Head Office 0115 985 1797 • Lenton Lane, Nottingham

Friendly and knowledgeable staff • Full range of iPods and Macs
• Massive selection of iPod accessories • Easy to find High Street locations • Buy online 24/7 - www.krccs.co.uk

KRCS

EIRE

Mactivate Ltd

Unit 13, Northwest Centre, Northwest Business Park, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Tel: 353 1 8224488 Fax: 353 1 8224490

Email: info@mactivate.ie URL: <http://www.mactivate.ie>

Apple Authorised Service Provider • Apple Authorised Reseller
• Nationwide Coverage • Over 15 years supporting Apple customers, we are Ireland's longest established Apple Service Provider.

Mactivate

THE SOUTH WEST

Farpoint

The Old Red House Bakery, 90c Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BG

Tel: 01225 460678

Email: info@farpoint.org.uk URL: <http://www.farpoint.org.uk>



Farpoint

THE SOUTH WEST

Western Computer

Cheltenham, Bristol and Swindon

Cheltenham Store 01242 234700 • Beechwood Shopping Centre

• cheltenham@western.co.uk, Bristol Store 0117 922 5661 •

Temple Meads • bristol@western.co.uk, Swindon Store 01793

531444 • Brunel Centre • swindon@western.co.uk

All stores are authorised repair centres. Our Bristol centre is also an Education Solution Provider and Authorised Training Centre.

Western
COMPUTER

"Do you know where your local
Apple reseller store is? You should.
What's more, I think you should make
all your Apple purchases from them."

Graham Barlow - Editor Macformat, April 08

PRINT AND MEDIA SERVICES

1000 CDs with Booklet+Inlay c.£600
High Quality CDR copies from 51p
5000 Litho printed CDs c.£750
CD/CD-ROM Mastering £70ph
DVDs and Enhanced CDs

Over 21 years experience
 Graphic design, colour print
 Large and small run specialists
 Excellent quality and presentation

Excellent!

RPM
 Repeat Performance
 Multimedia
 6 Grand Union Centre
 West Row
 London W10 5AS
 Tel. 020 8960 7222
 www.repeat-performance.co.uk

MacBarcodia Version 4.2 Just Released!

- high quality barcode creator
- all the popular barcode types
- saves EPS, PDF, TIFF or JPEG
- Fully compatible with Leopard

Visit www.computalabel.com to buy the software, upgrade from a previous version or buy individual barcode files for as little as £4.25 each!

Computalabel
 PO Box 8867, Leicester LE21 3DA Tel: 0116 270 0881 Fax: 0116 270 4427

VIDEO, DVD & CD DUPLICATION

Duplicate from any master in any quantity
 PAL, NTSC & SECAM standards conversion
 Wide variety of packaging available

DVD AUTHORIZING & ENCODING

Encoding to MPEG2 from any video format
 Personalised menus and chapter points
 Archive your home movies onto DVD

RELIABLE, EFFICIENT & PROFESSIONAL WITH EXTREMELY COMPETITIVE PRICES

NON-LINEAR EDITING

Realtime digital NLE suites for hire
 Very competitive hourly rates
 3D graphics and effects

0845 100 2629

www.cvsinternational.co.uk
 BRANCHES IN LONDON, ESSEX, KENT & SUFFOLK
 Head Office: 20 Tallon Road, Hutton Industrial Estate, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1TJ

Recycle your magazine and seven days later it could come back as your newspaper.

recycle
 The possibilities are endless.

www.recyclenow.com

PARTS AND REPAIRS

Apple Macintosh Parts & Repairs

1000's of parts always in stock shipped next day

VIS

Logic Boards
 PSU, LCD's
 Batteries

We specialise in iMac and PowerBook repairs

www.visparts.com

01189 88 66 33

New in stock, iPhone back up batteries

SPARES, REPAIRS AND SUPPORT

Spares & Repairs

MacBook • MacBook Pro • PowerBook • iBook • iMac

- Repair service with nationwide collection
- Faulty Macs bought, collected & recycled
- New & used spare parts for trade or DIY
- Web store with next day delivery

Superdrives • Logic Boards • LCDs
 Hard Disks • UK Keyboards • Tools
 Chargers • Batteries • DC boards
 Case Screws • Cases • Key Caps
 Internal Cables • Fans • Memory
 Modems • Drive cables • Inverters

PARTS NOW IN STOCK

££ for dead macs
 recycling macs
 repair service

online parts store

main dealer for ... **newer tech**

thebookyard.com **0151 291 6240**
 info@thebookyard.com

refuelled.com
 WHERE DESIGNERS COME TO FILL UP

- Fast Service
- Massive Range
- Great Prices

Design Software
 Hardware & Peripherals
 Wacom Graphic Tablets
 Built NY Laptop Sleeves
 Input Devices
 Colour Management Tools
 Crumpler Bags & Cases
 CAD Software
 Monitors & Graphics Cards
 Pantone Colour Books
 Apple Accessories
 Professional Art Materials

www.refuelled.com
 WACOM | CRUMPLER | BUILT NY | APPLE | FORMAC | PANTONE
 COLORVISION | NEC | ATI | ADOBE | 3DCONNEXION

Mac
 FORMAT

Circulation is up 20% year on year to 23,550!

Source: ABC Jan to Dec 2007

iCare Affordable Aftercare
 iCare. The national 'local' Mac Support Service
£99 inc vat

w: www.icaremacsupport.co.uk
t: 0870 908 0870

£99 is the cost of an annual insurance policy for one machine & makes provision for multiple call outs at no additional cost.



In association with
www.deliver2mac.com
Digital Downloads



Games

Andy Dyer makes an evolutionary journey before facing the Asian Dynasties

SNIPPETS

Buckle your swash



If you're a fan of classic 1973 comedy adventure novel *The Princess Bride* (or more likely the 80s movie of the same name directed by Rob Reiner), you might like to check out www.princessbridegame.com. The Mac game features some of the voices from the movie (Mandy Patinkin among them) and recreates all the key scenes of the story via the magic of basic platform gaming. You can sample a few of the levels online at the same web address that's printed above.

Please Sir, can I have some Spore?



Spore Origins, the iPhone version of Will Wright's genius new game is all well and good, but it only features the cellular phase of the full game. The good news is that iPhone and iPod touch owners might, at some point, enjoy a more complete *Spore* experience. Wright himself has hinted at further *Spore* developments for Apple's touchy feely machines so we'll be pestering him at regular intervals so we can bring you more news on this as it emerges.

ACTION ADVENTURE

LEGO Indiana Jones & Batman

The campaign for more LEGO games on Mac starts here...

OUT...
2009

Given the critical praise lavished on the *LEGO Star Wars* series of games, it was only a matter of time before the sequels arrived, and *LEGO Indiana Jones* and *LEGO Batman* look to be further proof that everyone loves making a brick of themselves.

What's more surprising is that despite the success of *LEGO Star Wars*, there's still no news of either *LEGO Indy* or *LEGO Batman* on Apple hardware.

However, reading between the lines (or, speculating wildly) it's likely we'll see both games hitting Mac hardware in 2009. If and when they do, here's what to expect.

LEGO Indiana Jones is primarily a platform game with puzzle, combat and collecting elements thrown in. If anything, the puzzles are better constructed than in the *Star Wars* game and the set pieces from the films (the game covers the action of the original trilogy) are a joy to behold. There's lots of humour, too, with LEGO cut scenes taking



Ah yes, it's Batman's old foe Giant Wooden Tiki... Wha?

"LEGO Indiana Jones and Batman prove that everyone loves making a brick of themselves"

the original movie scenes and deviating from them in quite hilarious ways. As before, the game can be played cooperatively, and it's here where the game really shines. In single-player mode the game works well enough, but your computer-controlled chum is often slow to catch up, or indeed catch on when you're trying to plough through the adventure. But with two people it's just perfect as you both enjoy those classic Indy moments together.

LEGO Batman, on the other hand, is a different beast altogether. Oh all right, it's not that different. Platforming, puzzling, combat and collecting are still the main ingredients. This time, you can control both the heroes and the villains, including the Joker, who attacks people with a deadly hand buzzer, the Penguin who sends little explosive penguin bots after his enemies, and the Riddler who, well, messes with people's heads.

On the side of law and order, Batman and Robin don special costumes to gain extra abilities. Batman's glide suit, for example, enables him to glide over large gaps.



For Pete's sake, stop moaning, Indy, at least it's not snakes.

The game's not based on any particular movie or comic book but the action and visual style does lean towards Batman's earlier, lighter incarnations. This is, after all, a LEGO game which ought to be, and is, fun. Now we just need a release date. ●

EVOLUTION SIMULATOR

Spore



£40 Will Wright's much anticipated evolutionary sim is finally here!

CONTACT INFO

Developer Electronic Arts
www.ea.com
Vendor Electronic Arts
www.spore.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core Duo Processor, 1,024MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.3 Leopard or higher, ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT, 128MB of Video RAM, or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB of hard drive space for installation, plus additional space for creations

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Great looks
- + Design your world
- + Five fascinating phases
- + Variety of game styles
- + Accessible to all
- Too simplistic?

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Spore is an amazing experience painted on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's an amazing accomplishment, but not quite all things to all gamers."

Spore. The game we've all been waiting for. As most of you will know, the brains behind this particular outfit (if you discount the team of squillions that has worked on it) is Will Wright, the man who equally blessed and cursed us with the *Sims* franchise. Has he managed to pull off another world-conquering blinder in *Spore*? If you're a cynic, the unfortunate answer is a resounding yes. If you're a fan, the fortunate answer is a resounding yes.

The aim of the game is both simple and epic: to take an evolutionary journey from single-celled creature to galaxy-conquering civilization in just five short(ish) steps.

Ease yourself in

The cell phase is a fun way to begin your evolutionary journey. Sure, it doesn't pose much of a challenge and it's pretty insubstantial compared to the later phases, but there's something captivating about creating a civilization from a single cell. Evolving to the point of leaving the water for dry land is the aim, and you do this by eating other creatures. You swim around eating creatures smaller than yourself while avoiding those larger than you. Once you've attained an adequate size, you will evolve legs and move onto dry land.



Next comes the creature phase. Here you get your first taste of creature creation. After establishing a nest you can mate with other creatures in your species, and when you do so you can modify it by adding limbs, weapons, abilities and customising colours. Exploring will enable you to locate other nests, whereupon you can either

play comes in as you build cities, install entertainment facilities to keep your people happy, build factories to increase wealth, and storm neighbouring cities in order to gain dominion over the other species. You can also build land, sea and air vehicles with which to gain even more power over your rivals. When you reach the height of

In addition, all this hard work does not go unrewarded, as you can submit your creations to an online database from which other players' games can be populated. The joy of seeing your own game populated by your friend's creations is not to be underestimated.

Casual hardcore

To employ the oxymoronic phrase 'casual hardcore' to describe *Spore* is probably not entirely accurate, but neither is it entirely inaccurate. The early phases of evolution are indeed simplistic, relaxing and casual, while the later phases are more complex affairs requiring the skills of an experienced strategy gamer to get the very most out of them. But there's a lot of fun to be had for gamers of any persuasion. Real hardcore strategists will find the game simplistic, but the vast majority of players will delight in its ability to take them on an expansive, epic evolutionary journey in a short space of time and with relative ease. In short it is, very nearly, a game for everyone. ●

"Take an evolutionary journey from single-celled creature to galaxy-conquering civilization in five steps"

These bipedal vehicles are great for blitzing other creatures' cities.



befriend other species or battle them to extinction. As you collect DNA, you can further evolve your creature; the more intelligent it gets, the more fellow creatures you can add to your hunting pack. When your creatures achieve consciousness it's time to get tribal, which involves developing a small settlement, learning to use tools in order to improve your social standing and combat skills and growing your community.

Civilisation phase is where the real resource management

civilized society, you will reach the space phase in which your imperial and diplomatic ambitions take place across a galactic map rather than a planet-bound one.

The joy of all this is not just in the journey, but in your ability to create and customise everything from the physical characteristics of your creature, to designing costumes for them, dictating the look of buildings, vehicles and composing a national anthem: every civilization you create will be uniquely yours.

REAL-TIME STRATEGY

Age of Empires III: The Asian Dynasties

£25 Age of Empires receives its second expansion pack... with elephants!

CONTACT INFO

Developer Ensemble Studios
www.ensemblestudios.com
Vendor Amazon
www.amazon.co.uk

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

G4/G5 or Intel 1.2GHz, 512MB RAM,
Mac OS X 10.3.9, 64MB video card or Intel
integrated graphics, DVD drive required

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Still looks great
- ⊕ Interesting new units
- ⊕ New Wonders
- ⊕ Good unit balance
- ⊖ More multiplayer modes
- ⊖ No real change to gameplay

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This is an excellent expansion that adds plenty of meat to the bones of the original game. But next time we need some structural changes."

If you're taking an elephant on holiday, make sure you pack its trunk.

We'd normally open a review of an expansion pack assuming that the reader already knows what we're talking about. On this occasion, though, we would urge those who are unfamiliar with *Age of Empires III* to get it in. You can buy it for as little as £25 on Amazon, and it truly is as deep and rewarding a strategy game as you could wish for, as well as being unusually kind to newbies for such a complex game.

Right, having steered the *Age of Empires* virgins toward their first awkward fumbblings it's time to take a look at what this expansion pack has to offer. A lot, is the short answer.

The clue to what this new pack has in store is in the title. *The Asian Dynasties* delivers a triumvirate of Eastern empires to get your teeth into comprising India, Japan and China. And with each new faction comes a raft of new units, wonders, campaigns and military leaders.

The Indians

We'll kick off with the Indians for no better reason than our love of a good onion bhaji being stronger than that of either sushi or pancake rolls. Taking place during India's first war of independence, you can have some real fun with a range of interesting units,



including elephants that are not only great to watch but are extremely effective in siege situations and in stomping their way through settlements and buildings. A terrifying prospect but, admittedly, a lot more effective than going into battle with a troop of Heffalumps, which would

lesson, no?) and introduces the player to the delights of orchestrating the movements of Samurai and Shinobi units.

Each civilization progresses to a new age by building wonders. There are five wonders for each civilization, the most recognisable of which are India's Taj Mahal,

fort whereupon you have to mass your troops around it and hold it until the timer runs out.

Regicide mode involves protecting your powerful, but at times vulnerable, Regent Unit. In **Treaty** mode there is a time limit during which no faction can attack another but must build resources and amass enough firepower in order to prevail come the onset of battle when the timer runs out. All good fun.

"The Asian Dynasties delivers a triumvirate of Eastern empires, comprising India, Japan and China"

Familiar campaigns

The Asian Dynasties is a marvellous addition to *AoEIII*, with the caveat that there are no real innovations here and the structure of the campaigns is familiar rather than throwing up any surprises. It's sort of like receiving a massive bag of new balls for your ball pit. Fantastic. But it would have been nice to get a few foam shapes and a slide, too. And with that rather lame analogy we'll draw a line under this review, except to say you should buy *The Asian Dynasties*; it's good fun, and extremely good value. ●

simply make the enemy want a bit of a cuddle.

The Chinese campaign sees you taking a trip to the Americas during the Age of Discovery, and the USP for this civilization is, of course, their mastery of gunpowder. That and the use of banner armies, amalgamations of units fighting under a single 'banner', rather than individual units.

The Japanese campaign charts the transition from the Toyotomi Dynasty to the Tokugawa Shogunate (and we all remember that history

Japan's Great Buddha and China's Summer Palace, and each serves a slightly different function whether that be to initiate a ceasefire, boost attacks, produce units or generate experience points (among others).

The multiplayer game also offers up a few new treats. In addition to the original **Supremacy** and **Deathmatch** modes of the base game, here you can also indulge in **King of the Hill**, **Regicide** and **Treaty** modes. In **King of the Hill** mode you capture an enemy



STEALTH SHOOTER

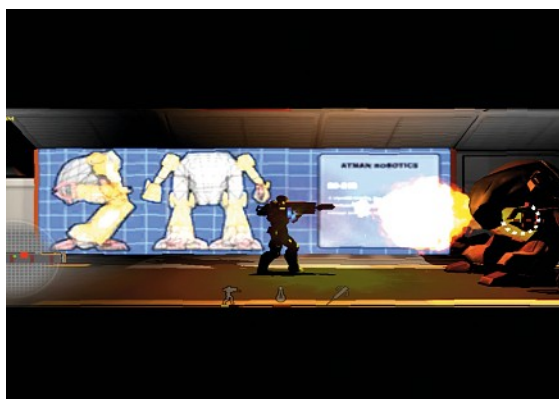
£8 Six years in the making, this is a glorious game fashioned by one man and his Mac

When we tell you that *io* is written by a lone programmer, you'll doubtless be expecting some sort of shoddy casual game with shocking production values and a terrible story. What we actually find is a slick game full of classy 3D character models and environments, dazzling special effects and sophisticated lighting.

The premise is simple: a stranded and crewless ship – the Nautilus 114 – is orbiting *io*, and it's up to you to find out what has happened to it. Taking its inspiration perhaps from movies like *Alien* (or the *Doom* games), the corridors of the Nautilus are an unsettling mix of glaring, flickering tungsten strip lighting and areas of pitch darkness.

Playing the game involves several disciplines. First, stealth. Just running through the level will get you killed. You need to creep into the shadows where you can remain unseen by the enemies (which consist of humanoid bots and fearsome ED-209-style attackers). Then there's shooting. Once you have learned where the attacks are coming from, you can utilise one of the weapons to take them out. It's entertaining and all the more interesting thanks to the smart AI of the enemies, who will do a runner if they're getting beaten.

The downside is that the game is extremely short (nine brief levels is all you get) and excruciatingly difficult (there are no saves and death sends



Test your nerves by trying to find out how the Nautilus 114 became stranded.

you back to the very start). As such it's frustrating, but if you view it as a harsh trial-and-error-style test of nerve, you'll be hooked and determined to see it through to the end.

io's creator is working on a new title. We urge you to support his endeavours by stumping up for this great example of one man's hard graft and exquisite craft. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Atman Software
www.atmansoftware.com
Vendor Atman Software
www.atmansoftware.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1.3GHz processor, 384MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.10, GeForce 6200 or above (also runs on Intel GMA 950 or above chipsets), 400MB hard disk space, mouse with scroll wheel

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Great looks
- + Fusion of 2D and 3D
- + Nicely modelled
- + Remarkably feature-rich
- Painfully difficult
- Short

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Created by one man, *io* is a remarkable example of independent programming."

PUZZLE

Ancient Quest of Saqqarah

\$20 (£10) By the eye of Horus, a puzzle game with a difference?

Check out any online Mac game store and every third title will be a casual puzzle game, possibly involving matching coloured tiles or gems. It's a tough market in which to stand out. Codeminion's *Ancient Quest of Saqqarah* does stand out, by looking and sounding better than most, and adding a bit of variety to the basic gameplay.

From the start, *Saqqarah* looks and sounds great. From the artwork depicting the various gods of the Ancient Egyptian theme, and your amusingly stentorian host (a blue monkey called Khufu), to the design of the actual levels, everything is polished.

The basic gameplay is familiar but the premise has been embellished by the

provision of six variations on the theme. In the first, matching gems to destroy them causes the connecting paths to be activated. Activate the paths surrounding a segment of the board and it gets filled in. Fill in the entire board to complete the level. In a second variation the end result is the same, but you get there by swapping gems from anywhere on the board to collect them into groups. A third variant has you rotating groups of gems to move them to a desired area of the board.

While all games are similar, the variety they provide (along with a few bonus rounds and power-ups) make this more satisfying than similar titles.

The game is structured well. Each set of levels takes place



Ancient Quest of Saqqarah is a puzzle game with a difference. The difference being it's actually good.

in a temple belonging to a specific god. Completing a few levels will unlock Khufu's bonus powers, and a few more will unlock the next temple. You then have the choice

whether to proceed to the next set of levels, or continue with the current temple.

Whether you're new to these games or not, *Saqqarah* should be your first choice. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Codeminion
www.codeminion.com
Vendor MacGameStore
www.macgamestore.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

700MHz or better, Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Beautiful presentation
- + A bit of humour
- + Variations on the theme
- + Bonus powers and levels
- Unoriginal
- Just a casual game

VERDICT

★★★★★

"*Saqqarah*'s not original, but it does what it does better than other puzzle games out there."

On your Disc

Apart from the three full programs, there's Flash templates, music app video training and more!

START HERE

Using the Disc

The *MacFormat* Disc comes with a superb interface menu that we recommend you use. Simply pop the disc into your drive, double-click the disc icon on your Desktop and a folder will open up. The next step is to double-click on the *MacFormat.osx* icon in order to launch the interface. Please be aware that *MacFormat* now supports OS X only, and that some programs may require internet registration to become fully functional. Full details are available on the disc interface.



Start up the *MacFormat* disc interface for more details.

DISC PROBLEMS?

If you're having difficulties using the disc interface or content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support, where you'll find solutions to many commonly reported problems. If you still have problems, email our reader support team at support@futurenet.co.uk or call 01225 442 244 and ask for coverdisc support.

We can only provide support for software installation. We cannot give in-depth help on the apps, your hardware or operating system. For software-related issues, please contact the product's developers. We're unable to provide serial numbers over the phone. We provide technical support for this disc for six months after this magazine's on-sale date.



FEATURED SOFTWARE

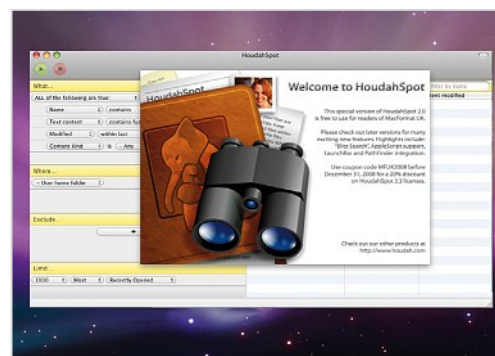
Enhance Spotlight, collate invoices and create puzzles!

AS SOLD FOR £13

HoudahSpot 2.0.9

Turbo-charge your search with this Spotlight add-on

The bizarrely named *HoudahSpot* is a complete re-imaging of Apple *Spotlight*'s front end that boasts the ability to keep frequently used files within reach and retrieve files that you didn't know you had. It's basically a new front end for *Spotlight* and makes Boolean and string-based searches far easier. Searching, when combined with tagging, is widely recognised as being a more powerful and flexible way of tracking files than directory nesting. Requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later.

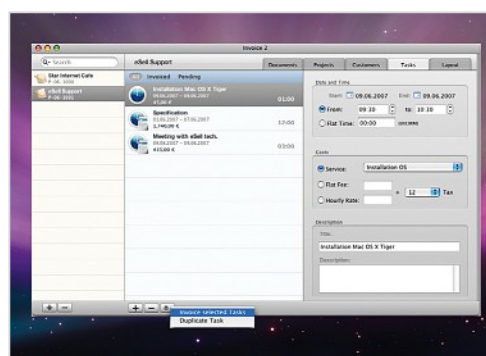


AS SOLD FOR \$5 (£3)

Invoice 2.1.5

Track your payments with this financial software

Written purely in Cocoa, this simple invoicing app is a great solution to those who are new to this area of business and financial management. It provides a range of layouts, which can be customised through predefined autofields. It's also possible to add PDFs as high-quality individual backgrounds. Then there's the support for OS X's *Address Book* enabling you to manage and sync so that you have your customers' details at your fingertips. Requires Mac OS X 10.4.6 or later.

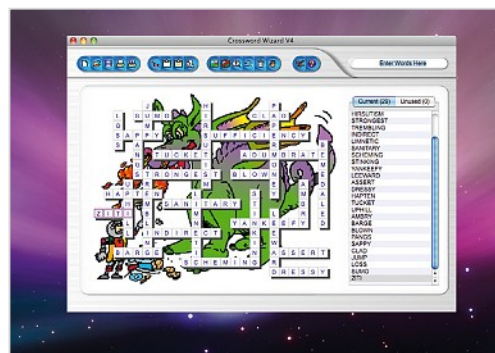


AS SOLD FOR €89

Crossword Wizard 4 SE

Create your own crossword puzzles

If you regularly find the time to test yourself on your paper's crossword puzzles then this is for you. Simply start with a single set of words and clues, then create, edit and print crosswords and other worksheets. You can also use crosswords on-screen. What distinguishes *Crossword Wizard* from other programs is the range of additional puzzles it can generate from the same set of words and clues. This functionality is removed as part of the Special Edition. Requires Mac OS X 10.3 or later.



READER OFFERS ON THIS MONTH'S APPS

Upgrade to HoudahSpot 2.2

You are entitled to 20% off the latest version of *HoudahSpot*, which is available until the 31 of December 2008. Simply use the coupon code, 'MWUK2008' at www.houdah.com/store when making a purchase of the *HoudahSpot* software.

Upgrade to Invoice 3

If you like this product, check the trial of the latest version with all its additional functionality, which is also on the *MacFormat* DVD. As a bonus you'll be entitled to a 30% discount by using the code 'MACFORMAT2008' when ordering at www.kedisoft.com.



Upgrade to Crossword Wizard 4

You can quote the following coupon number when purchasing *Crossword Wizard 4* to receive a special 30% discount: CPN4956143410. To order the software, simply phone this number: 01271 325 353.

Chris Worth Productions music discount

Use the coupon code, 'macformat25' and you will receive a 25% discount when purchasing royalty-free music from the store at www.chrisworthproductions.com.

ALSO ON THE DISC

Resources, audio podcasts and more!



RESOURCES

Flash templates

Spice up your site

Add a lick of paint to your existing website by applying one of the many free *Flash* templates available on the disc. There's plenty of templates to choose from to fit your particular site.

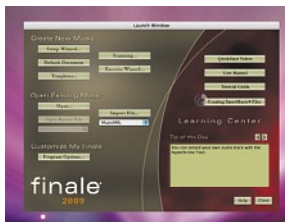


GAME DEMO

Cooking Quest 1.0

Virtual culinary excellence?

You've been awarded an entry for the Chef's Challenge contest in Restaurant Row. Take control of your budget as you create multi-course gourmet meals in Foodville's most elite restaurants.



SOFTWARE DEMO

Finale 2009

Create music

Know your tenor clefs from your Legatos? Then you should find this musical notation app a breeze. Compose, arrange, notate and print engraver-quality sheet music.



VIDEO TUTORIAL

Software training

Learn a new skill

It's double trouble this issue as we've included helpful video lessons on two popular Apple music-making products: both *Logic Pro 8* and *Garageband '08* are covered.

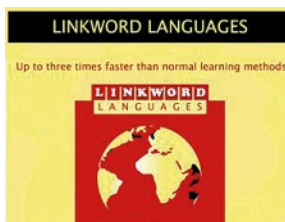


PODCAST

MacFormat This Week

Essential audio from the team

Once you've read the magazine, why not listen to our 30-minute broadcasts from the 1 and 15 September? Be sure to subscribe on *iTunes* so that you don't miss out in the future.



AUDIO TUTORIALS

Learn a new language

Become bi-lingual

This is your last chance to catch all the audio lessons from the last 10 issues, including languages such as Spanish, Russian, Welsh and much more. Enhance your language skills!

DISC CONTENTS

Full apps, shareware, game demos and more

IN THE MAG

Cover feature

Adium X 1.3.1
Audacity 1.3.5d
Cyberduck 3.0.2
GIMP 2.4.6
iMedia Browser 1.1.1
Inkscape 0.46.3
iSquint 1.5.2
iStat pro 4.7
Jahshaka 2.0
KomoZer 0.7.1
Livestation 2.0.13
MPEG Streamclip 1.9.2
NeoOffice 2.2.4
NetNewsWire 3.1.7
Onyx 1.9.7
OpenOffice.org 2.4
Perian 1.1
Scribus 1.3.4b
Skim 1.12
Transmission 1.33
VLC Media Player 0.8.6i



Tutorials

Amazon Album Art 2.12
beaTunes 1.2.13
CoverSutra 2.1.5
Moviestorm
Simple WindowSets 2.1
Simplify Media 1.1

Widgets

BBC iPlayer Widget 1.0
BBC ListenAgain Widget 3.33
SpacePig Preview 2.2
Time Map 1.0

RESOURCES

20 Flash templates
Audio production training
Learn a language
MacFormat Podcast
Royalty-free music



Group test

Camino 1.6.3
Firefox 3.0.1
Flock 2.0b2
OmniWeb 5.7
Opera 9.60b1

Q and A

Email Backup Pro 2.0.4
Growl 1.1.4

Reviews

BBEdit 9.0.1
Coda 1.5.1
Sandvox 1.5
SugarSync 1.1.11
TurboCAD Mac Designer 2D 4

Shareware

Freezer 0.1
GarageBuy 1.5.1
GaragePay 1.1.2
Love Stars 2.1
iClockr 1.0
Spark 3.0b8



FULL SOFTWARE

Crossword Wizard 4 SE
HoudahSpot 2.0.9
Invoice 2.1.5

GAMES TRIALS

Ancient Quest of Saqqarah 1.15
Cooking Quest 1.0
io 1.1.1
Yard Sale Junkie 1.0

RECOMMENDED

Abaltat Muse 2.0
Crossword Wizard 4 SE
Finale 2009
GroBoto 2.3.2
HoudahSpot 2.2.2
Invoice 3.0.4
Unity 2.1

TOP FREWARE

BootChamp 1.0.2
Calq 1.4.5
DesktopLyrics 1.0.6
FStream 1.4
Gabtastik 0.4.2
LeopardAssist 2.1
Lockdown 1.0.6
Raw Photo Processor 3.7.7
Syrinx 1.2
VDrift 080805

3 full programs!

Plus widgets, shareware, games, video tutorials & more



Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the MacFormat disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at [www.futurenet.co.uk/](http://www.futurenet.co.uk/support/)

support/. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.



© Future Publishing 2008
Not to be sold separately



MISSING YOUR DISC?
If your disc is missing, email
support@futurenet.co.uk or
phone 01225 442244

MAKE SOMETHING



750 HI-RES IMAGES A MONTH **£149**

4.5 MILLION PHOTOS & VECTORS

SHUTTERSTOCK.COM 001.646.419.4452

10% OFF WITH THIS CODE: MFT710



shutterstock®



Brighton

12-13 Brighton Place
The Lanes, Brighton.

Hove

255 Old Shoreham Rd
Hove.

Bournemouth

78 Old Christchurch Rd
Bournemouth.

Guildford

Coming soon

Chichester

51a South Street
Chichester.

solutions inc.



0870 389 8610

standard national call rates apply

www.solutions-inc.co.uk



**Free UK
Mainland
delivery**



iPod nano 4G

The latest evolution of iPod nano with larger colour screen. New features include "rock and rollover" and "shake to shuffle". Longer battery life and even greater colour choice. Available in store and on-line now,

iPod nano 8GB (all colours) £109.00 inc. vat

iPod nano 16GB (all colours) £149.00 inc. vat



Value for money

We regularly check the price of over 500 core products, against other leading mail-order catalogues, high street shops & on-line resellers to ensure we offer you the best deals.



Secure on-line transactions

Our on-line e-store features a secure check-out page. We never keep any credit or debit card details and we never pass customer details on.



**Free UK
Mainland
delivery**

Great availability, faster delivery

1,000 products available on-line. Free delivery to mainland UK addresses for all orders.



No shady deals

All our products are official UK models and versions sourced either direct from the manufacturer or from approved distributors and backed by a full UK warranty.



Newsletter

Sign-up on-line and receive emails on all the latest products, in store events and promotions.



Well established

Solutions inc. is one of the most established and respected Apple UK partners with 15 years experience.



Invisible Shield

Tough clear protective film

iPhone 3G full body £15.99 inc. vat

iPhone 3G Screen only £11.97 inc. vat



Griffin Nu Form

iPhone 3G polycarbonate case

iPhone 3Gblack £14.99 inc. vat

iPhone 3Gwhite £14.99 inc. vat



iSkin Revo2

Premium silicone case in various colours

Revo2 for iPhone 3G £24.98 inc. vat



Onyx Leather

Premium leather iPhone case

Onyx for iPhone/touch £16.99 inc. vat



iPod touch

The latest evolution of the iPod touch now with convenient volume slider and built in speaker. Longer battery life offers up to 36 hours audio or 6 hours video. Plus you can now download games from the iTunes Application store.

iPod touch 8GB (all colours) £169.00 inc. vat

iPod touch 16GB (all colours) £219.00 inc. vat

iPod touch 32GB (all colours) £289.00 inc. vat



Griffin SmartTalk

Listen to your iPhone in stereo with your favourite headphones. This plug in mic for the iPhone provides the best of both worlds whether speaking on phone or listening to music.

£14.99 inc. vat



G-Tech G-DriveQ

FireWire 400/800, USB2, eSATA

500GB £140.14 inc. vat

750GB £254.98 inc. vat

1TB £333.70 inc. vat



G-Tech G-RAID2

FireWire 400/800, USB2

500GB £212.68 inc. vat

1TB £304.33 inc. vat

2TB £512.89 inc. vat



Extraordinary sonic ability, lavish build, stunning styling. One of the most impressive products we've seen in an age.



B&W has managed to produce an iPod speaker dock that raises the bar so high, I doubt that the competition can see it, let alone reach it.

Bowers & Wilkins Zeppelin £399.00 inc. vat

You can see and audition the Zeppelin in all of our four retail stores. Alternatively get the inside story, tech spec, and next day delivery for on-line orders at: www.solutions-inc.co.uk



iTrip FM auto pilot

Now with even more controls. Simply the best FM iPod radio transmitter solution available for your car

£34.98 inc. vat



Microsoft Office home / student

Word, Excel, Powerpoint & Entourage.

The essential Microsoft applications you can install on 3 Macs at home.

£99.00 inc. vat